

**Question for written answer E-000255/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Fabio Massimo Castaldo** (Renew), **Francisco Guerreiro** (Verts/ALE), **Javier Nart** (Renew), **Brando Benifei** (S&D), **Ivan Štefanec** (PPE), **Heidi Hautala** (Verts/ALE), **Bart Groothuis** (Renew), **Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó** (NI), **Antoni Comín i Oliveres** (NI), **Pina Picierno** (S&D), **Petras Auštrevičius** (Renew), **Katalin Cseh** (Renew), **Pietro Bartolo** (S&D), **Martin Buschmann** (NI), **Lukas Mandl** (PPE), **Malte Gallée** (Verts/ALE), **Andrey Kovatchev** (PPE), **Alexandra Geese** (Verts/ALE), **Guy Verhofstadt** (Renew), **Seán Kelly** (PPE), **Sandro Gozi** (Renew), **Petri Sarvamaa** (PPE), **Karen Melchior** (Renew), **Domènec Ruiz Devesa** (S&D)

Subject: Pro-Putin propaganda in Italy funded by EU money

As reported in the Italian news, an event featuring pro-Putin propaganda took place at Meucci High School in Aprilia before Christmas<sup>1</sup>. The event was organised by Openhub, a project that has received EU funding and has planned an exchange with Beregovoy High School in illegally-occupied Luhansk. Involved in the organisation of the event was Andrea Lucidi, a pro-Putin journalist active in Donbas, and the association Vento dell'Est, chaired by Lorenzo Berti, a former member of the neo-fascist party CasaPound. Vento dell'Est is known for pro-Kremlin propaganda activities in Italy, in particular the planning of an event in Lucca, Tuscany on 27 January 2024<sup>2</sup> in which Aleksander Dugin, known for his nationalist and revanchist ideology regarding Ukraine and for speaking out in favour of the Russian war of aggression<sup>3</sup>, was invited to participate via video-call.

1. Against this backdrop, how can the Commission ensure that EU funds are not used for financing pro-Putin propaganda within the EU?
2. What action is the Commission planning to take to counter this dangerous tendency in Italy?

**Supporter<sup>4</sup>**

Submitted: 29.1.2024

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.corriere.it/scuola/secondaria/24\\_gennaio\\_07/propaganda-russa-un-liceo-latina-bufera-progetto-un-ponte-la-pace-764f4966-ad83-11ee-9e88-893ab0f41bc6.shtml?refresh\\_ce](https://www.corriere.it/scuola/secondaria/24_gennaio_07/propaganda-russa-un-liceo-latina-bufera-progetto-un-ponte-la-pace-764f4966-ad83-11ee-9e88-893ab0f41bc6.shtml?refresh_ce).

<sup>2</sup> [https://corrierefiorentino.corriere.it/notizie/24\\_gennaio\\_05/invitano-dugin-l-ideologo-di-putin-bufera-politica-a-lucca-per-il-giorno-della-memoria-d0e46cea-2bca-415e-8136-b5511dad8x1k.shtml#](https://corrierefiorentino.corriere.it/notizie/24_gennaio_05/invitano-dugin-l-ideologo-di-putin-bufera-politica-a-lucca-per-il-giorno-della-memoria-d0e46cea-2bca-415e-8136-b5511dad8x1k.shtml#).

<sup>3</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/21/europe/alexander-dugin-russia-profile-intl/index.html>.

<sup>4</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Attila Ara-Kovács (S&D)