

**Question for written answer P-007228/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Nicola Danti (S&D)

Subject: Fake news: democratic emergency

Ann Mettler, Head of the Commission's European Political Strategy Centre, recently stated that the time of taking a gentle and naive approach to fake news is over as the survival of our democracy is at stake. She stressed that President Juncker was among those deeply concerned about the influence this kind of news could have on the normal democratic process.

During the 'Russiagate' investigation, Facebook and Twitter's lawyers acknowledged that since 2015 more than a third of US citizens may have seen content uploaded via fake profiles linked to Russia and aimed at influencing the American presidential election.

Similar cases of outside interference via the internet could also have affected the referendums in the UK and in Catalonia, and they also pose a serious threat to the upcoming elections in countries like Italy and Spain.

In light of the above, what specific measures does the Commission intend to take to curb the proliferation of fake news and prevent further attempts by third-country state or parastatal agencies to manipulate public opinion in Europe and interfere in the politics of Member States, not least through websites and online platforms?