

Question for written answer E-001958/2024/rev.1

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

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Subject: Russian Government disinformation interference with national governments

By hiring a company investigated by the FBI and sanctioned for its pro-Russia propaganda activities, Vladimir Putin's government has taken another step in its disinformation campaign. According to internal documents accessed by a number of German, Estonian and Spanish media outlets, the company in question, Social Design Agency, intends to systematically publish thousands of pieces of false information about the governments of Germany, France, Italy and Spain, political parties like the Partido Popular and institutions such as the Spanish Royal Household.

The company's strategy, leaked by the newspaper *ABC*, also indicates that the Russian Government intends to nurture its relationship with far-right European parties in an effort to attract them to the Kremlin and use their influence to achieve its top priorities, such as winning against Ukraine. In total, the agency is estimated to have published a total of 38 899 pieces of content between January and April 2024, including 30 000 posts and 4 600 videos.

In view of the above:

1. Are the Vice-President / High Representative of the Union and the External Action Service aware of this Russian interference?
2. What steps will they take to limit the impact of Russian disinformation on plurality and institutions in the Member States?

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