Question for written answer E-000086/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Meta algorithms and democratic processes

An academic study[1] published on 2 January 2026 by the University of Urbino, based on analysis of over 2 .5 million Facebook posts from 2021 to 2025, finds an average 72 % reduction in the visibility of Italian political representatives, linked to a Meta algorithmic policy limiting political content in the news feed. The study indicates that the policy was applied across EU Member States, implying systemic EU-wide effects.

The policy operated during a period of direct electoral relevance, including the 2024 European elections, affecting the information environment in which citizens voted. At the same time, extremist, anti-European and pro-Russian pages gained significant visibility, surpassing elected representatives' content in overall reach and thus spreading disinformation. The study also finds that the Meta policy remains active to this day.

It is particularly serious that neither the policy nor its EU-wide effects were adequately disclosed in Meta's transparency or post-election reports, despite the Commission opening a formal procedure on 29 April 2024 under the Digital Services Act[2].

The Commission is asked:

1. How were these systemic implications not flagged as a serious reporting deficiency?

2. Has Meta complied with its Digital Services Act obligations in relation to transparency and risk mitigation?

3. What urgent measures will the Commission take to protect democratic processes?

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[1] https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/8dqag_v2
[2] OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, pp. 1–102, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj.