

Question for written answer E-003116/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Christine Anderson (ESN)

Subject: The Commission's fractured reality I: redefining democracy beyond the Treaties

At the meeting of the Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield of 16 July 2026, the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) presented its report entitled 'Fractured reality: how democracy can win the global struggle over the information space'. It stated that democracy requires 'pluralistic, evidence-informed debates' and that the 'integrity of the information space guarantees a shared foundation'. It also referred to citizens living in 'different realities' and to 'distorted reality'.

Liberal democracy is certainly not limited to majority rule. In the Treaties, however, its substantive content is expressed through representative democracy, pluralism, fundamental rights, political accountability, participation and the rule of law. These guarantees principally protect citizens and political opposition against the misuse of public power.

1. Does the Commission endorse the JRC's view that 'information integrity', a 'shared foundation' and 'evidence-informed debate' are constitutive requirements of democracy?
2. Precisely which provisions of primary EU law establish those concepts as elements of the EU's democratic order?
3. Does the Commission accept that these concepts are policy or analytical concepts rather than autonomous legal criteria by which the democratic legitimacy of lawful political debate may be assessed?

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