

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001903/24
to the Commission
Veronika Cifrová Ostrihoňová (Renew)
(1 October 2024)**

Subject: European Democracy Shield — intended mechanisms and envisaged roll-out

In the light of President von der Leyen's commitment to establishing a 'European Democracy Shield' aimed at tackling deceitful online content, I would like to request further clarification on the role envisaged for digital platforms, which are often conduits for the dissemination of disinformation, including content generated by AI.

1. Could the Commission describe what new mechanisms could be introduced to ensure that these platforms contribute effectively to the prevention and prebunking of disinformation?
2. Could the Commission provide details of the anticipated timeline and scope for the roll-out of this initiative?

Submitted: 1.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(14 January 2025)**

The Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection has been tasked by the President of the Commission with the responsibility to lead the work on the new European democracy shield.

It will address severe risks to democracy in the EU and build on the comprehensive approach of the European Democracy Action Plan and the Defence of Democracy Package.

All work will be done in full respect of fundamental rights and democratic values, notably freedom of expression and association.

As part of this work, the Commission will counter foreign information manipulation and interference, as well as disinformation, by enhancing operational capacity, situational awareness, analysis, cooperation and information sharing, building on acquired expertise and existing mechanisms and cooperation structures.

The EU's democracy shield should build on and reinforce efforts already in place to frame the actions of online platforms, not the least the enforcement of the Digital Services Act ⁽¹⁾ and the cooperation under the Code of practice against disinformation, as well as the entry into application of the Political Advertising Regulation ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act).

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/900 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2024 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising.