

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001917/24
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(2 October 2024)**

Subject: Use of deep fakes to defame people standing for public office

The Latvian Parliament recently adopted amendments to the Criminal Code under which the use of deep fake technologies to defame people standing for public office will be punishable with up to five years in prison.

At present, there is no specific EU legislation directly regulating the use of deep-fake technologies for the purposes of defamation.

Is the Commission considering introducing uniform rules at EU level to address this problem?

Submitted: 2.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(10 February 2025)**

Protecting democratic processes and values, including the right to stand for public office, is a priority for the Commission.

In addition, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act ⁽¹⁾, prohibits certain manipulative or deceptive uses of AI technologies that are likely to cause significant harm ⁽²⁾.

It also imposes transparency obligations on providers and deployers of AI systems generating deep fake contents ⁽³⁾. Violations are sanctioned by administrative fines.

However, deepfakes are not criminalised as such by the AI Act, which is a product safety legislation.

The Commission Recommendation on inclusive and resilient elections (EU) 2023/2829, adopted as part of the 2023 Defence of Democracy package, highlights the highest democratic standards in elections.

This recommendation also addresses different challenges to the election information environment, including so called ‘deep fakes’, as a vector of disinformation.

It also encourages political parties and campaign organisations to adopt campaign pledges and codes of conduct on election integrity and fair campaigning.

In these, political parties and campaigning organisations should commit to refrain from producing, using or disseminating falsified, fabricated, doxed or stolen data or material, including deep fakes generated by artificial intelligence systems.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689.

⁽²⁾ Article 5(1a) of the AI Act. This provision will apply from 2 February 2025.

⁽³⁾ Article 50(2) and (4) of the AI Act. This provision will apply from 2 August 2026.