

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003952/25
to the Commission
Joachim Streit (Renew)
(8 October 2025)**

Subject: Impact of AI on freedom of speech

The development of artificial intelligence continues apace, and Russia and China are using it to destabilise European democracies.

Deepfakes are increasingly being used to embroil political figures in scandals. In May 2023, for example, a candidate in the Turkish presidential election resigned after being discredited by deepfake-generated pornographic content. AI-supported visual content created specifically to defame political figures can indirectly change their behaviour and directly influence election results. This constitutes a serious violation of freedom of expression.

In Germany, deepfake technology has so far been used primarily for fraudulent or pornographic purposes, but political deepfakes are also on the rise. It is almost inevitable that they will be used to influence political activity in the future.

The right to free expression is enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights.

1. Is the Commission planning any specific legislative measures to counter the new threat to freedom of expression posed by AI?
2. Should the foreign interference and manipulation of information (FIMI) toolkit, the action plan for Democracy in Europe's package of measures to combat disinformation — including AI-generated deepfakes — by foreign actors, be expanded from a descriptive project into a model for real-world operation?

Submitted: 8.10.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(1 December 2025)**

The Commission takes risks in the EU related to generative artificial intelligence (AI) very seriously. The set of EU rules covering AI-related risks, including the Digital Services Act ⁽¹⁾ (DSA) and the AI Act ⁽²⁾, are the most comprehensive available in the world.

The AI Act obliges providers of general-purpose AI models with systemic risk to assess and mitigate risks, including the facilitation of disinformation, and imposes transparency obligations.

Under the DSA, very large online platforms (VLOPs), and very large online search engines (VLOSEs) must analyse and mitigate systemic risks on civic discourse and electoral processes stemming from their services, including their AI systems where relevant.

In the DSA guidelines on the mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes ⁽³⁾, Section 3.3 is focused on risks related to AI.

The Political Advertising Regulation ⁽⁴⁾ requires providing information on the use of AI systems when using targeting or ad-delivery for political advertising.

The Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) Toolbox ⁽⁵⁾, developed by the European External Action Service (EEAS), facilitates counter-FIMI action.

Built for real-world operational application, including AI-relevant application, it provides for a wide range of actions such as resilience building measures, or external action, including restrictive measures such as sanctions.

⁽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) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act).

⁽³⁾ Commission Guidelines for providers of Very Large Online Platforms and Very Large Online Search Engines on the mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes pursuant to Article 35(3) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/900 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2024 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising.

⁽⁵⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/information-integrity-and-counteracting-foreign-information-manipulation-interference-fimi_en.

Finally, under the European Democracy Shield ⁽⁶⁾, the Commission is looking at ways to reinforce the EU collective capacity to strengthen information and election integrity, looking at the role of AI.

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/european-democracy-shield-documents_en.