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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.11.2025)

The European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) is an important element in the EU's approach to address online disinformation. EDMO is an independent multidisciplinary community carrying out crucial activities to better understand the (dis)information landscape, collect evidence of disinformation campaigns on online platforms and build societal resilience.

Commission funding requires EDMO participants to adhere to strict governance standards. The Commission requires that EDMO's independence framework includes clear safeguards and transparency measures designed to guarantee the independence and editorial autonomy of all organisations and personnel involved in EDMO from public and private parties, including online platforms.

EDMO provides scientific advice to EMIF but does not manage it. This advisory role is not Commission funded and is strictly maintained under a condition of EDMO's full independence from the fund and the donors¹.

EDMO's contributions, including to public consultations, address a broad range of issues, such as supporting independent fact-checking organisations, advocating for researcher data access and promoting transparency of algorithms and recommender systems. This focus reflects the needs of the academic and civil society communities, not the interests of large online platforms. EDMO has always operated professionally, showing no evidence of Google's influence in its operations or its contribution to the European Democracy Shield.

The Commission will continue to monitor the situation. Support to an independent fact-checking community is essential to the Shield's objectives and a key component of the Commission's democracy-related proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

¹ As defined in the Guidance issued by the EDMO Advisory Board - <https://gulbenkian.pt/emifund/edmos-scientific-focus/>.