

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004620/25
to the Commission
Ioan-Rareş Bogdan (PPE)
(19 November 2025)

Subject: Outrageous lies about the EU system

Disinformation and fake news continue to poison the minds of EU citizens, with the aim being to increase distrust in decisions taken by the EU institutions and the thrust of our foreign policy.

The two latest lies doing the rounds on social media, which also use AI images to convey their message are: 1 — Ursula von der Leyen fled the plenary because Prime Minister Viktor Orban appeared with physical evidence of fraud worth billions orchestrated by the Commission President; 2 — 40% of the EU budget is going to Ukraine.

1. Given that Parliament is working on a range of procedures to adapt legislation to new challenges, but these procedures are taking time, what is the Commission considering doing to protect citizens from disinformation that may lead to their electoral disengagement and the cementing of Kremlin-driven schools of thought?
2. Is the Commission considering setting up a rapid reaction mechanism to effectively combat anti-EU-system propaganda?
3. Does it have a status report showing the proportion of fake political/economic/military news on social networks operating in the EU?

Submitted: 19.11.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(24 March 2026)

The Joint Communication on the European Democracy Shield ⁽¹⁾ recognises the challenge from foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) and disinformation.

It outlines a whole of society and whole of government approach to strengthening democratic resilience and the integrity of the information space across the EU.

This includes increasing situational awareness, providing a more coordinated early warning system, raising awareness and boosting media literacy. The new European Centre for Democratic Resilience will support this.

Under the Digital Services Act ⁽²⁾, the Commission will propose an incidents and crisis protocol to facilitate coordination among authorities and ensure swift reactions to large scale incidents.

A Blueprint for countering FIMI and disinformation will support setting common approaches and will include tools and guidance on measures to anticipate, detect and respond, as well as a mechanism for professional exchanges.

The Commission remains committed to supporting journalists, researchers and independent fact-checking. A new European Network of Fact-Checkers ⁽³⁾ will boost fact-checking capacity in all EU official languages.

Under an extended mandate, the European Digital Media Observatory ⁽⁴⁾ will develop new independent monitoring and analytical capabilities for situational awareness on elections or in crisis situations.

The Commission does not have a status report available on the proportion of disinformation on social media in the EU. The European External Action Service (EEAS) continues to analyse and address FIMI with tools aimed at providing an overview of the threat landscape ⁽⁵⁾, enhancing resilience and raising costs for perpetrators, including exposure on EUvsDisinfo ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/2539eb53-9485-4199-bfdc-97166893ff45_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/digital-services-act.html>.

⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-launches-eu5-million-call-strengthen-european-fact-checking-network>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://edmo.eu/>.

⁽⁵⁾ See for example the third EEAS Report on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference Threats, https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/3rd-eeas-report-foreign-information-manipulation-and-interference-threats-0_en.

⁽⁶⁾ It raises awareness about the Kremlin's disinformation operations and helps strengthen resilience against FIMI across Europe and beyond. Available in over 14 languages, it reached more than 40 million users in 2025 and has become the world's largest publicly accessible collection of pro-Kremlin disinformation, with over 19 000 documented cases.