

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003115/26  
to the Commission  
Christine Anderson (ESN)  
(23 July 2026)**

*Subject:* The Commission's fractured reality II: information integrity, lawful disagreement and EU competence

The Joint Research Centre's presentation of its report on fractured reality describes democracy as dependent on the 'integrity of the information space', a 'shared foundation' and 'evidence-informed' debate, while referring to 'distorted reality' and citizens living in 'different realities'.

This appears to move beyond the traditional liberal-democratic model, under which pluralism includes the freedom to reject institutional opinion, dispute expert claims, distrust public authorities and advance minority interpretations. It risks replacing limits on public power with institutional supervision of how political opinions are formed.

1. How does the Commission define 'information integrity', 'shared foundation', 'evidence-informed debate' and 'distorted reality' for the purposes of its policies and programmes?
2. Which authority or actor is entitled to determine when lawful political, scientific or factual disagreement ceases to constitute pluralism and instead threatens the integrity of the information space?
3. What specific Treaty legal basis, beyond Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, would permit EU action intended to shape or secure the information environment in the Member States, and does the Commission agree that Article 2 is not a general competence clause?

Submitted: 23.7.2026

**Question for written answer E-003116/26  
to the Commission  
Christine Anderson (ESN)  
(23 July 2026)**

*Subject:* The Commission's fractured reality I: redefining democracy beyond the Treaties

At the meeting of the Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield of 16 July 2026, the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) presented its report entitled 'Fractured reality: how democracy can win the global struggle over the information space'. It stated that democracy requires 'pluralistic, evidence-informed debates' and that the 'integrity of the information space guarantees a shared foundation'. It also referred to citizens living in 'different realities' and to 'distorted reality'.

Liberal democracy is certainly not limited to majority rule. In the Treaties, however, its substantive content is expressed through representative democracy, pluralism, fundamental rights, political accountability, participation and the rule of law. These guarantees principally protect citizens and political opposition against the misuse of public power.

1. Does the Commission endorse the JRC's view that 'information integrity', a 'shared foundation' and 'evidence-informed debate' are constitutive requirements of democracy?
2. Precisely which provisions of primary EU law establish those concepts as elements of the EU's democratic order?
3. Does the Commission accept that these concepts are policy or analytical concepts rather than autonomous legal criteria by which the democratic legitimacy of lawful political debate may be assessed?

Submitted: 23.7.2026

**Joint answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission  
(23 September 2026)**

The Commission is committed to protecting and promoting democratic resilience and information integrity online. In its reply to Written Question E-003273/2025 <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission explained its multifaceted approach to foreign information manipulation and interference and disinformation comprised of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches, each with their respective definitions and legal scope.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-003273-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-003273-ASW_EN.html).

As set out in the European Democracy Shield, these initiatives strengthen the transparency, accountability and integrity of the information space to ensure that people's voices are heard and to empower them to be active citizens.

Accessing reliable and trustworthy information empowers citizens to exercise their democratic rights and engage meaningfully with institutions.

As stated in the pre-amble to the 'Fractured Reality' report, its contents do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the Commission.

The Joint Research Centre provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science to support EU policy making. The report is intended to inform the Commission's reflection on ways to strengthen democratic resilience, while fully respecting fundamental rights including freedom of expression, pluralism and democratic accountability.

Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union sets out the common values on which the EU is founded. For any EU initiative, the legal basis is determined in the light of the objective and content of the envisaged action.

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