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P-002423/2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.7.2025)

The EU, in coordination with its partners, is closely monitoring the upcoming joint strategic military exercise Zapad-2025, scheduled to take place between 12 and 16 September 2025.

The EU continues to call on Russia and Belarus to fully comply with the 2011 Vienna Document of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which requires prior notification for military activities involving more than 9 000 troops, and mandatory observation for those involving over 13 000. Belarus has announced its intention to notify OSCE member states and invite international observers on the ground.

The Zapad-2025 exercise also raises serious concerns in the cybersecurity and information domains. Recognising the potential for parallel cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns, the EU is taking steps to strengthen the EU's resilience, particularly in Member States, which have historically been more exposed to Kremlin-linked influence operations.

The Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) closely monitor and expose Russian foreign information manipulation and interference. In particular, the EUvsDisinfo platform¹, created under the auspices of the EEAS and led by the East Stratcom Task Force, remains a key instrument in this regard, building on its successful efforts during Zapad-2021, when it identified and debunked multiple false narratives. The Rapid Alert System², launched in 2019, continues to allow Member States to share information and coordinate fast responses to emerging disinformation campaigns.

The EU is actively engaged in preparing for hybrid threats, including the potential security, cyber, and hybrid threats surrounding Zapad-2025.

¹ <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/>.

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ras_factsheet_march_2019_0.pdf.