

EN
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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
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The organisation and conduct of elections are solely the competence of the Member States.

Supporting Member States to safeguard election integrity is a key objective of the European Democracy Shield. The EU has in place a robust toolbox, which includes the Digital Services Act (DSA)¹, the Political Advertising Regulation, the Recommendation on inclusive and resilient electoral processes in the Union², the European Cooperation Network on Elections and specific support for independent fact-checkers and civil society to expose online manipulation and disinformation campaigns³. On 5 March 2026, the National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH), the Digital Services Coordinator of Hungary, organised a DSA Election Roundtable with representatives of very large online platforms, very large online search engines, relevant national authorities and the Commission. As for every national and European election, the signatories of the Code of Conduct on Disinformation, part of the DSA, applied the Rapid Response System for the Hungarian elections, which ran for the period of 16 March to 19 April 2026. The Commission has also encouraged observation of elections by citizens and international organisations, which endorse relevant international standards, such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Ahead of the elections, various stakeholders, including the Hungarian hub of the European Digital Media Observatory⁴, reported on attempts of possible Russian interference.

Preparing for elections requires continuously building up resilience, through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. With the European Democracy Shield, the Commission has considerably reinforced its capacities by setting up a European Centre for Democratic Resilience⁵ in February 2026. The Centre supports Member States anticipate and counter threats to democratic processes while strengthening election preparedness and protecting the integrity of the information space.

The Commission is fully committed to using all available tools to assist Member States in ensuring free and fair elections, without interference, in full respect of their competences.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

² Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/2829 of 12 December 2023 on inclusive and resilient electoral processes in the Union and enhancing the European nature and efficient conduct of the elections to the European Parliament - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2023/2829/oj/eng>.

³ European Digital Media Observatory and its regional hubs, the European Network of fact-checkers and the development of a Common Research Support Framework.

⁴ Russian disinformation campaigns against Hungarian opposition figures, 457 political ads in six weeks and AI-generated videos once again' (2026): <https://edmo.eu/publications/russian-disinformation-campaigns-against-hungarian-opposition-figures-457-political-ads-in-6-weeks-and-ai-generated-videos-once-again/>; 'The Matryoshka's operation has been activated...' (2026): <https://edmo.eu/publications/the-matryoshkas-operation-has-been-activated-peter-magyar-got-the-truth-serum-on-fringe-tiktok-channels/>; 'A Russian attempt to embroil an opposition politician in the Epstein case, statistical distortions and good old cheapfakes' (2026): <https://edmo.eu/publications/a-russian-attempt-to-embroil-an-opposition-politician-in-the-epstein-case-statistical-distortions-and-good-old-cheapfakes/>.

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/european-centre-democratic-resilience_en.