

Coronavirus disinformation: online platforms take new actions and call for more players to join the Code of Practice

The Commission has published the reports by Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Microsoft and Google on measures taken in June to combat coronavirus disinformation. The current signatories and the Commission are also calling on new companies to join the Code of Practice on disinformation as it will help broaden its impact and make it more effective.



Věra **Jourová**, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, said:

The COVID-19 disinformation monitoring programme has allowed to keep track of important actions put in place by online platforms. With new variants of the virus spreading and vaccinations continuing at full speed, it is crucial to deliver on the commitments. We look forward to the strengthening of the Code of Practice.

Thierry **Breton**, Commissioner for Internal Market, added:

The EU stood by its promise to deliver enough doses to safely vaccinate every EU citizen. All stakeholders now need to assume their responsibility to beat vaccine hesitancy spurred by disinformation. While we are strengthening the Code of Practice with platforms and signatories, we are calling for new signatories to join the fight against disinformation.

For example, TikTok's campaign supporting vaccination, with the Irish government, reached over one million views and over 20,000 likes. Google continued to work with public health authorities to show information about vaccination locations in Google Search and Maps, a feature available in France, Poland, Italy, Ireland, and Switzerland.

On Twitter, users can now train automated systems to better identify violations of the platform's COVID-19 disinformation policy. Microsoft extended its partnership with NewsGuard, an Edge extension that warns about websites spreading disinformation.

Facebook cooperated with international health authorities to increase public awareness of vaccine efficacy and safety and with Michigan State University (MSU) researchers to better detect and attribute deepfakes.

These joint efforts need to continue in view of the persisting and complex challenges that online disinformation still presents. The Commission's COVID-19 disinformation monitoring programme has been extended until the end of 2021 and reports will now be published every two months.

The next set of reports will be published in September. Following the recently published Guidance, the signatories have kicked off the process to strengthen the Code and launched a joint call for interest for potential new signatories.

Access the reports

See also

Code of Practice on Disinformation

Related topics

Disinformation

Source URL:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/news/coronavirus-disinformation-online-platforms-take-new-actions-and-call-more-players-join-code>