Tackling online disinformation

The Commission is tackling the spread of online disinformation and misinformation to ensure the protection of European values and democratic systems.

Learn about the #FactsMatter campaign

Disinformation is 'verifiably false or misleading information created, presented and disseminated for economic gain or to intentionally deceive the public'. Misinformation is verifiably false information that is spread without the intention to mislead, and often shared because the user believes it to be true.

The spread of both disinformation and misinformation can have a range of consequences, such as threatening our democracies, polarising debates, and putting the health, security and environment of EU citizens at risk.

Large-scale disinformation campaigns are a major challenge for Europe and require a coordinated response from EU countries, EU institutions, social networks, news media and EU citizens. The Commission has developed a number of initiatives to tackle disinformation:

- the Code of Practice on Disinformation lays out a set of worldwide self-regulatory standards for industry;
- the European Digital Media Observatory is a European hub for fact-checkers, academics and other relevant stakeholders to support policy-makers;
- the action plan on disinformation aims to strengthen EU capability and cooperation in the fight against disinformation;
- the European Democracy Action Plan will develop guidelines for obligations and accountability of online platforms in the fight against disinformation;
- the Communication on ‘tackling online disinformation: a European approach’ is a collection of tools to tackle the spread of disinformation and ensure the protection of EU values;
- the COVID-19 monitoring and reporting programme, carried out by signatories of the Code of Practice, acts as a transparency measure to ensure accountability in tackling disinformation.

Action plan against disinformation
Press Release: EU action to tackle COVID-19 disinformation
Press Release: EU reports on progress tackling disinformation
Synposis report: Public consultation on fake news and disinformation
Study: fake news and disinformation (.pdf)
Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.
EU-US Trade and Technology Council: Commission launches consultation platform for stakeholder's involvement to shape transatlantic cooperation

The Commission launched this week an online consultation platform on the EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC), allowing stakeholders to
share their views and provide common proposals on the work ahead.

PRESS RELEASE | 01 October 2021
Code of Practice on disinformation: Commission welcomes new prospective signatories and calls for strong and timely revision

The topic of disinformation remains high on the Commission's agenda. Eight new prospective signatories joined the revision process of the Code of Practice on disinformation during the latest signatories Assembly meeting yesterday. They expressed their willingness to take commitments under the strengthened version.

PRESS RELEASE | 30 September 2021
Trade and Technology Council: Inaugural meeting agrees on important deliverables and outlines areas for future EU-US cooperation

At the first meeting of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) in Pittsburgh, the EU and the US agreed on concrete deliverables and outlined the future scope of work. Notably, the EU and the US committed to cooperating closely on shared priorities such as export controls, foreign investment screening, critical and emerging technology standards including Artificial Intelligence, and secure supply chains including on semiconductors. They also agreed to work together on important global trade issues, such as the challenges posed by non-market economies and trade-related climate and environment.

PRESS RELEASE | 29 July 2021
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.

Info
The European Union upholds media freedom and pluralism as pillars of modern democracy and enablers of free and open debate.

COVID-19 disinformation monitoring programme
Signatories to the Code of Practice on Disinformation are carrying out a COVID-19 disinformation monitoring programme to keep people informed about the virus and vaccines.

Q&A: Guidance to strengthen the Code of Practice on Disinformation

Find out more about recent measures to strengthen the Code of Practice on Disinformation

Code of Practice on Disinformation

Online platforms, leading social networks, advertisers and advertising industry agreed on a Code of Practice to address the spread of disinformation.

See Also

Monitoring media pluralism in the digital era

The Media Pluralism Monitor is a scientific tool designed to identify potential risks to media pluralism.

Multimedia actions

The EU's multimedia actions aim to strengthen news reporting on EU affairs from pan-European points of view.

Media literacy

Media literacy has never been as important as it is today. It enables citizens of all ages to navigate the modern news environment and take informed decisions.

Source URL: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/online-disinformation