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.

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Press Release: EU action to tackle COVID-19 disinformation
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Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.
The EU and the US have reaffirmed their close cooperation to address global trade and technology challenges in line with their shared
commitment to democracy, freedom and human rights.

PRESS RELEASE | 23 April 2022
Digital Services Act: Commission welcomes political agreement on rules ensuring a safe and accountable online environment

The Commission welcomes the swift political agreement reached today between the European Parliament and EU Member States on the proposal on the Digital Services Act (DSA), proposed by the Commission in December 2020.

NEWS ARTICLE | 22 April 2022
Restrictions on Russian state-owned media - Frequently Asked Questions

The European Union adopted sanctions against the Kremlin's disinformation and information manipulation assets. The Council of the European Union decided to suspend the distribution of State-owned disinformation outlets Russia Today and Sputnik across the EU.

PRESS RELEASE | 31 March 2022
Disinformation: online platforms continue the Code of Practice revision in light of the war in Ukraine and report on first 2022 actions to fight COVID-19 disinformation

The COVID-19 crisis and Russia's military aggression against Ukraine show the threats and challenges that disinformation poses to our societies. The Code's current and prospective signatories are heavily involved in taking urgent action to limit disinformation related to the war in Ukraine.

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Big Picture

Media freedom and pluralism

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

Dig deeper

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](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/online-disinformation)