

Disinformation and AI: Harnessing the Power of Narratives to Build European Resilience

Thursday 14th November 2024, 8.00 - 10.00 AM

Salon 1 - European Parliament, Brussels

– Expert Roundtable –

Disinformation has emerged as one of the greatest threats to democracy in the digital age. Despite considerable efforts by governments and organisations worldwide to curb its spread, disinformation continues to grow, becoming increasingly weaponised. As artificial intelligence (AI) evolves, it is expected to further exacerbate this critical issue, enabling more sophisticated manipulation tools. Recognising this urgency, President von der Leyen has placed disinformation at the forefront of Europe’s political agenda, advocating for a comprehensive and proactive approach to protect European democracy.

While traditional approaches—such as fact-checking, content moderation, and legal frameworks—are necessary, it is evident that more must be done as disinformation continues to proliferate. The Narrative Observatory combatting Disinformation in Europe Systemically (NODES), co-funded by the European Union and launched in 2023, has shown that the fight against disinformation is not merely a battle over facts but a deeper struggle over how we perceive and engage with the world around us. Disinformation manipulates the narratives and cognitive frameworks through which people interpret information, underscoring the need for a more systemic approach.

Hosted by Mr Brando Benifei MEP, this roundtable will convene leading experts from politics, policy, academia, media, industry, and other key stakeholders to explore how Europe can further strengthen its toolbox in the fight against disinformation. By engaging with the latest research and fostering cross-sector collaboration, the expert roundtable aims to identify concrete actions that can be taken within the new European mandate to bolster European resilience and combat disinformation comprehensively.

As a thought-starter for the discussion, the NODES White Paper, “The Power of Narratives: A Strategic Approach to Combatting Disinformation in Europe – Key Findings from the First European Narrative Observatory”, will be presented. The insights gathered from this event will play a crucial role in shaping Re-Imagine Europa’s ongoing work on Democracy in a Digital Society.

Programme

Registration & Coffee

For all those requiring badges, we ask you to be in front of the EP entrance in Place Luxembourg at 8:00 to allow for registration. DO NOT FORGET ID

8.30 Welcome Address

Brando Benifei, *Member of the European Parliament*

Nathalie Loiseau, *Member of the European Parliament*

Introductory Keynote Speech

Dubravka Šuica, *European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography*

8.45 Thought-Starter Presentation of the NODES White Paper, “The Power of Narratives: A Strategic Approach to Combatting Disinformation in Europe – Key Findings from the First European Narrative Observatory”

Erika Staël von Holstein, *Chief Executive of Re-Imagine Europa*

9.00 Structured Discussion with thought-starters from:

- Krisztina Stump, *Head of Unit Media Convergence and Social Media, DG CNECT, European Commission*
- Paolo Cesarini, *Chair of the Executive Board of the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO)*
- Filip Grzegorzewski, *Head of Information Integrity (and countering FIMI), European External Action Service (EEAS)*
- Juliette Montesse, *Head of Digital Investigations for Europe at Agence France Presse (AFP)*
- Andrzej Nowak, *Lead Scientist of NODES and Chief Narrative Scientist at Re-Imagine Europa*

Moderated by:

Elisabeth Ardaillon-Poirier, *Strategic Advisor at Re-Imagine Europa*

9.45 Closing remarks

Klára Dobrev, *Member of the European Parliament*

Alexandra Geese, *Member of the European Parliament*

