



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 28.5.2019
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Poslanecká sněmovna for its Opinion on the Report on the implementation of the Communication "Tackling online disinformation: a European Approach" {COM(2018) 794 final} and the Joint Communication Action Plan against Disinformation {JOIN(2018) 36 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Poslanecká sněmovna's support for the initiatives to address the phenomenon of disinformation that risks undermining the democratic process and the trust of European citizens in the media and in Union and national institutions. The Commission welcomes also its support of the work carried out by the Strategic Communication Task Forces of the European External Action Services in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood of the European Union as well as in the Western Balkans to combat disinformation campaigns.

The Commission would like to reiterate that freedom of expression and information is a fundamental right enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union as well as in the national legal orders of the Member States. The need to respect and preserve this fundamental right of European citizens inspires the Commission's activities in this area. Consequently, the Commission shares the views of the Poslanecká sněmovna concerning the need to avoid any kind of censorship or silencing of critical opinions vis-à-vis the European Union or its policies.

The Commission shares also the Poslanecká sněmovna's concern to ensure that the work of fact checkers and researchers is carried out with full independence and transparency and in accordance with professional and ethical standards.

*Mr Radek VONDRÁČEK
President of the
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The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*