

Courtesy translation



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
12TH TERM

106TH

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 6th session held on 27th February 2019

on the disinformation response package

Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Action Plan against Disinformation

Senate Print no. K 6/12, JOIN(2018) 36

and

Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Implementation of the Communication "Tackling Online Disinformation: an European Approach"

Senate Print no. K 7/12, COM(2018) 794

The Senate

I.

1. Considers

the issue of the intentional dissemination of disinformation, including the questioning of verifiable information and evident lies, to be a serious threat to democratic mechanisms in the Czech Republic and the EU; it is especially so referring to recent information about the use of disinformation by Russia aimed at influencing the US elections, as well as referring to information from our security services about similar activities in the Czech Republic;

2. Emphasizes,

referring especially to the Russian Federation, the need to deal with the real threat of the active use of disinformation campaigns as one of the tools of the hybrid attacks against the EU;

3. Adds, also,

that it is necessary to implement defense measures not only on the level of the Czech Republic but also on the level of the EU, because of the EU's importance for us, considering as well that certain high-level representatives of our country are currently involved in the manipulation with information and dissemination of fake news ;

II.

1. Agrees, therefore,

with the proposed Action Plan against Disinformation as well as the assessment of the Commission's Report;

2. Calls on the Government

to solve the issue of unclear delimitation of competence regarding disinformation promptly and to appoint a central coordination point responsible for this issue on the national level, that will also play the role of the national contact point with regard to the European Rapid Alert System cooperation;

3. Puts a great emphasis on

the raising of the media literacy and development of critical and analytical thinking in all age and social groups of people regardless of educational background, which will make them less prone to be manipulated and better equipped to assess the relevance of information and their overall context; points out in this respect that even in nearly 30 years since the restoration of democratic conditions in the Czech Republic, a comprehensive system of civic education has not been established;

4. Considers

the time frame until the end of the year 2019 for the evaluation of effectiveness of the newly employed measures to be very ambitious; the Senate is nevertheless of the opinion that it is justified by the seriousness of the issue;

III.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate about the way this resolution was taken into account;

2. Authorizes

the President of the Senate to forward this resolution to the European Commission.

Jaroslav Kubera
sign manual
President of the Senate

Miroslav Adámek
sign manual
Senate Verifier