



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 28.5.2019  
C(2019) 3023 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative on the Action Plan against Disinformation.*

*The Commission welcomes the Senát's support for this initiative 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 shares the concern of the Senát that disinformation may be part of hybrid wars led by foreign actors against the European institutions. At the same time, it is also aware that domestic actors may be involved in the spread of disinformation.*

*The Commission shares the view of the Senát that an effective strategy to tackle this issue requires action at European level. It welcomes the Czech Republic's participation in and contribution to the work of the European cooperation network on elections.*

*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.*

*The Commission is pleased to note the Senát's support on the various pillars of the Action Plan, in particular concerning the swift and effective implementation of the Rapid Alert System. In this context, it would like to inform the Senát that the first meeting of the Rapid Alert System including representatives of European institutions and of Member States already took place on 18 March 2019.*

*The Commission shares the Senát's view on the importance of swiftly implementing actions aimed at improving media literacy, digital skills and the critical thinking of*

*Mr Jaroslav KUBERA  
President of the Senát  
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4  
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*European citizens. Furthermore, as regards the private sector, it agrees with the Senate that the urgency and the seriousness of the disinformation problem warrant an assessment of the effectiveness of the Code of Practice by the end of 2019.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*