

## Disinformation Review Issue No 57 - 9 February 2017

Date	Language / Targeted Audience	Summary	Link	Outlet(s)	Disproof	Reported by
18.01.2017	RUS	Ukraine has a new holiday - Day of the Avenger	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kd3Ncf">http://bit.ly/2kd3Ncf</a>	<a href="http://sputnik.ru">Sputnik.ru</a>	The new holiday is the Volunteer's Day, that has nothing to do with "vengeance" <a href="http://bit.ly/2jTJU93">http://bit.ly/2jTJU93</a>	<a href="http://stopfake.org">StopFake.org</a>
20.01.2017	ITA	Nine nuns in a Milano monastery became pregnant after hosting five migrants in July.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kl5TaY">http://bit.ly/2kl5TaY</a>	Il Giornale italiano	The disinformation article was debunked by an Italian fact checker <a href="http://bit.ly/2jAlyFW">http://bit.ly/2jAlyFW</a> . The outlet in question does have a disclaimer, stating some articles could have been invented. Unfortunately, this part of the information was not picked up by the outlets that translated the story into other languages.	East Stratcom Network
27.01.2017	GEO	Georgian fighters are returning from Ukraine to Georgia, due to the non-payment of salaries.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kyDZbD">http://bit.ly/2kyDZbD</a>	<a href="http://tb24.ge">tb24.ge</a>	The Georgian Legion (one of the military battalions of Ukrainian Armed Forces composed of ethnic Georgians) never left Ukraine: <a href="http://bit.ly/2jTLkQV">http://bit.ly/2jTLkQV</a>	Myth Detector
29.01.2017	RUS	Europe openly has an anti-Russian policy.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kcKrDU">http://bit.ly/2kcKrDU</a>	Voskresnyi vecher s Vladimirom Solovyovym' (39:13)	Despite current difficulties in the relationship with Russia, the EU and its Member States have maintained a clear policy of reaching out to Russian society and youth, mainly through the Erasmus+ student exchange programme and other people to people contacts.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist

29.01.2017	RUS	Ukraine is divided into two parts. One part is a group of terrorists, who came to power through a coup and established state terrorism with a Nazi ideology. The second is the people, who are held hostages by these terrorists.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kcKrDU">http://bit.ly/2kcKrDU</a>	Voskresnyi vecher s Vladimirom Solovyovym' (2:09:16)	As witnessed by the democratic and inclusive Presidential elections held on 25 May 2014, Ukraine is governed by a democratically elected government. The OSCE characterised the elections as showing the "clear resolve of the authorities to hold what was a genuine election largely in line with international commitments and with a respect for fundamental freedoms." According to the OSCE, the only areas where serious restrictions were reported were those controlled by separatists, who undertook "increasing attempts to derail the process." <a href="http://bit.ly/2g9K0Mp">http://bit.ly/2g9K0Mp</a> . The far-right Right Sector (often depicted as "fascists" or "Nazis" by pro-Kremlin outlets) gained only 1.8% of the votes, far short of the threshold needed to enter parliament. Ukraine's electorate clearly voted for unity and moderation, not separatism or extremism, and the composition of the parliament reflects that <a href="http://bit.ly/2dFFEdi">http://bit.ly/2dFFEdi</a>	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
29.01.2017	RUS	Ukraine is governed by a Nazi elite.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kcKrDU">http://bit.ly/2kcKrDU</a>	Voskresnyi vecher s Vladimirom Solovyovym' (2:09:16)	The far-right Right Sector (often depicted as "fascists" or "Nazis" by pro-Kremlin outlets) gained only 1.8% of the votes, far short of the threshold needed to enter parliament. Ukraine's electorate clearly voted for unity and moderation, not separatism or extremism, and the composition of the parliament reflects that <a href="http://bit.ly/2dFFEdi">http://bit.ly/2dFFEdi</a>	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
29.01.2017	RUS	Russia provides the residents of Crimea with a significantly higher standard of living and income than they had before the Russian annexation of the Ukrainian peninsula.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kcKrDU">http://bit.ly/2kcKrDU</a>	Voskresnyi vecher s Vladimirom Solovyovym' (2:35:40)	The human rights situation in Crimea significantly deteriorated, as proven eg by the UN resolution condemning "arbitrary detentions, torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment" <a href="http://ind.pn/2fxfnH">http://ind.pn/2fxfnH</a> . Furthermore, in 2016, food prices in annexed Crimea were higher than in the neighboring regions of Russia <a href="http://bit.ly/2jSwP4K">http://bit.ly/2jSwP4K</a> .	Pavel Spirin, former journalist

30.01.2017	RUS	A "colour revolution" is being prepared in the US now, similar to the "Arab Spring" in Libya or the "Revolution of Dignity" in Ukraine.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2leCQFh">http://bit.ly/2leCQFh</a>	'Vremya pokazhet' (32:57)	No evidence for this conspiracy given. "Revolution of Dignity" was not prepared, it was a spontaneous protest against the Viktor Yanukovich's regime and his U-turn on the Association Agreement with the EU.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
30.01.2017	RUS	There are no Russian troops on the territory of Ukraine, including the suburbs of Avdiivka.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2leYIGS">http://bit.ly/2leYIGS</a>	'Vremya pokazhet' (03:07)	The evidence of Russian military in Donbas is overwhelming, much of it coming, inadvertently or deliberately, from Russian troops themselves. Further details, for example, are in the following reports: <a href="http://bit.ly/1i9fChX">http://bit.ly/1i9fChX</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/1JUXaQB">http://bit.ly/1JUXaQB</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/1RbWQU5">http://bit.ly/1RbWQU5</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/1L6f6J6">http://bit.ly/1L6f6J6</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/1GpWmnW">http://bit.ly/1GpWmnW</a> .	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
30.01.2017	RUS	Fierce fighting in the town of Avdiivka, the East of Ukraine, is the realization of a secret plan designed by the General Staff of the Ukrainian army of "cleaning" Donbass of its civilian population // Kyiv has also developed programs to construct filtration camps in Donbass, to deprive these people of Ukrainian citizenship and the right to vote.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2leYIGS">http://bit.ly/2leYIGS</a>	'Vremya pokazhet' (28:49)	No evidence given.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
30.01.2017	RUS	Angela Merkel must be the main "target" of Kremlin because she is "trying to occupy Ukraine" and "pushing Germany into a conflict with Russia".	<a href="http://bit.ly/2khWQZK">http://bit.ly/2khWQZK</a>	Mesto vstrechi' (1:09:56)	No evidence or indications that Angela Merkel would want Germany to 'occupy Ukraine' or push it into a conflict with Russia.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
30.01.2017	RUS	The German government is supporting neo-Nazism in Ukraine.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2khWQZK">http://bit.ly/2khWQZK</a>	Mesto vstrechi' (1:21:20)	There are no Nazis in the Ukrainian Government. The far-right Right Sector (often depicted as "fascists" or "Nazis" by pro-Kremlin outlets) gained only 1.8% of the votes, far short of the threshold needed to enter parliament. Ukraine's electorate clearly voted for unity and moderation, not separatism or extremism, and the composition of the parliament reflects that <a href="http://bit.ly/2dFFEdi">http://bit.ly/2dFFEdi</a>	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
30.01.2017	RUS	Hillary Clinton's supporters were preparing a colour revolution in Moldova.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2lfBc6R">http://bit.ly/2lfBc6R</a>	<a href="http://newsmaker.md">newsmaker.md</a>	No evidence given. Pro-Kremlin media regularly talk about the "threat" of Western-backed revolutions against Kremlin-friendly politicians.	BDR Associates (East Stratcom Network)

31.01.2017	RUS	European humanists and their friends from the US are responsible for the fact that people are dying in Avdiivka and that they cannot receive medical care there.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2jSO1qY">http://bit.ly/2jSO1qY</a>	Vremya pokazhet' (35:52)	No evidence given. It is Russia who is funding the separatists that fight in the area.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
31.01.2017	RUS	Ukrainian President Poroshenko and the Ukrainian authorities are "bandits and separatists".	<a href="http://bit.ly/2jSO1qY">http://bit.ly/2jSO1qY</a>	Vremya pokazhet' (7:34)	No evidence given. The democratically elected Ukrainian government is defending its territorial sovereignty against illegal foreign military aggression.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
31.01.2017	RUS	It is Kyiv who is to blame for the fighting, deaths of civilians and humanitarian catastrophe in the town of Avdiivka.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2jT5kba">http://bit.ly/2jT5kba</a>	Mesto vstrechi' (26:11)	According to an investigation conducted by the 'Informnapalm' website, the pro-Kremlin separatists of Donbass have carried out massive artillery and rocket attacks on residential areas of the town of Avdiivka <a href="http://bit.ly/2jSYMti">http://bit.ly/2jSYMti</a> . The town of Avdiivka, as well as the entire territory of Donbass, belongs to Ukraine and, according to the demarcation line established by the Minsk Agreement, is located on the territory that should be monitored by the Ukrainian army.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
31.01.2017	ESP	Ukrainian footballer Roman Zozulya is a nazi.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2jX6kJU">http://bit.ly/2jX6kJU</a>	El Espanol	Roman Zozulya is not a nazi. The accusations are based e.g. on the fact that he wears a t-shirt with the Ukrainian national symbol - that has nothing to do with nazi ideology: <a href="http://bit.ly/2jSW0nV">http://bit.ly/2jSW0nV</a>	<a href="http://StopFake.org">StopFake.org</a>
31.01.2017	RUS	DNR has returned Avdiivka under its control.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2jTlprv">http://bit.ly/2jTlprv</a>	TV Zvezda	Avdiivka has never been under separatist control, the town is part of free Ukraine and under the control of the Ukrainian armed forces. Zvezda then declared that Ukrainian military had resumed shelling Avdiivka, when in fact it is the Russian supported separatists that have been incessantly firing at the town in recent days: <a href="http://bit.ly/2kiu6QH">http://bit.ly/2kiu6QH</a>	<a href="http://StopFake.org">StopFake.org</a>
31.01.2017	RUS	Ukraine is stealing gas, which goes from Russia to Europe. President Poroshenko provokes bloodshed in the city of Avdiivka to distract Europe from these facts.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2jT5kba">http://bit.ly/2jT5kba</a>	Mesto vstrechi (29:34)	No evidence given.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
31.01.2017	RUS	Ukrainian government splits the society and is building a Nazi state in Ukraine.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2jT5kba">http://bit.ly/2jT5kba</a>	Mesto vstrechi (1:26:13)	Conspiracy theory. No evidence of the Ukrainian Government building a Nazi state.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist

31.01.2017	ENG	Ukrainian army provoked the clashes around Avdiivka.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kK4Cw7">http://bit.ly/2kK4Cw7</a>	<a href="http://newcoldwar.org">newcoldwar.org</a>	It was the Russian backed forces that began the shelling: <a href="http://bit.ly/2kEVGsu">http://bit.ly/2kEVGsu</a>	Promote Ukraine NGO
01.02.2017	RUS	The war in Donbass began because the Ukrainian army started killing residents of this region.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kyOFah">http://bit.ly/2kyOFah</a>	Pervaya studiya (43: 11)	No evidence given. The war in Donbass began because of Russian military aggression. See disproof above, or <a href="http://bit.ly/2kCBRzC">http://bit.ly/2kCBRzC</a>	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
01.02.2017	RUS	President Poroshenko invested in the presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton, so now he is trying to compensate his losses through worsening the military conflict in Donbass in order to get financial help from the West.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kyOFah">http://bit.ly/2kyOFah</a>	Pervaya studiya (56: 46)	Conspiracy theory. No evidence given that suggest that Poroshenko invested money in the electoral campaign of Hillary Clinton.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
01.02.2017	ENG	[German] Reich occupies Lithuania. Operation Barbarossa all over again. Germany serves the globalist EU and NATO structures.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kdFOJR">http://bit.ly/2kdFOJR</a>	<a href="http://russia-insider.com">russia-insider.com</a>	Tasteless parallels comparing today's democratic Germany to Adolf Hitler's Reich have no basis in reality. // The deployment of multinational troops in Baltic states and Poland was approved in July 2016 at the NATO summit in Warsaw. The expected size of 4000 soldiers is designed to provide security guarantees and bolster deterrence on the eastern flank.	Promote Ukraine NGO

01.02.2017	ENG	There was a coup d'etat in Ukraine. Russia did not invade Crimea. [In the referendum] people decided they want to be part of Russia. The sanctions have created a major economic problem for the EU.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kyydgh">http://bit.ly/2kyydgh</a>	Marine Le Pen @ CNN	The spontaneous onset of the Euromaidan protests was a reaction of large parts of the Ukrainian population to former President Yanukovich's sudden departure from the Association Agreement with the European Union in November 2013. // There were free and democratic elections in Ukraine in 2014. // Any decision relating to Ukraine's sovereignty or sovereign choices can only be taken without undue external pressure. This so-called referendum was organised in a matter of weeks by a self-proclaimed Crimean leadership lacking democratic legitimacy and installed by armed Russian military personnel following the seizure of public buildings. The EU does not recognise it. // Since Russia put in place its ban on EU agricultural products in 2014, EU global exports of agricultural goods have increased by 5-6%. This means that EU exporters have found alternative markets in other third countries that more than compensate for their lost sales in Russia.	East Stratcom Network
01.02.2017	RUS	Ukraine provoked the fights in Avdiivka to test the loyalty of Donald Trump.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2lfiR9t">http://bit.ly/2lfiR9t</a>	<a href="http://lenta.ru">lenta.ru</a>	It was the Russian backed forces that began the shelling: <a href="http://bit.ly/2kEVGsu">http://bit.ly/2kEVGsu</a>	Promote Ukraine NGO
01.02.2017	LTU	Nine nuns in a Milano monastery became pregnant after hosting five migrants in July.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kvRniq">http://bit.ly/2kvRniq</a>	<a href="http://infa.lt">Infa.lt</a>	Translation to Lithuanian of the Italian article above.	East Stratcom Network
01.02.2017	RUS	Nine nuns in a Milano monastery became pregnant after hosting five migrants in July.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kZM5ZU">http://bit.ly/2kZM5ZU</a>	Zvezda TV	Translation to Russian of the Italian article above.	East Stratcom Network
02.02.2017	ENG	Ukraine has provoked the renewed violence in the east of the country in order to pretend to be a victim and receive money from the West; because they need to establish a dialogue with the Trump's administration; because the government needs to regain the people's support; and because Ukraine is not ready to implement the Minsk agreements.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kJfab">http://bit.ly/2kJfab</a>	Russia Today	No evidence for this. On the contrary, the available evidence shows that it was Russian-backed militants who started the shelling in Avdiivka: <a href="http://bit.ly/2lfupdC">http://bit.ly/2lfupdC</a>	Promote Ukraine NGO

02.02.2017	ENG	The European Parliament has postponed the vote on granting Georgia visa-free regime from the 2 February until a Strasbourg session later in February.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2ktGJt3">http://bit.ly/2ktGJt3</a>	Sputnik	The Parliament voted according to schedule on the 2 February, and a majority voted yes <a href="http://bit.ly/2jGTITV">http://bit.ly/2jGTITV</a> .	East Stratcom Network
02.02.2017	CZE	Kyiv junta started the escalation in Avdiivka. // Victoria Nuland was preparing Maidan for years.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kJk1gi">http://bit.ly/2kJk1gi</a>	Protiproud	No evidence given <a href="http://bit.ly/2dG8OLk">http://bit.ly/2dG8OLk</a> . On the contrary, first reports were describing how Russian-backed militants started the shelling: <a href="http://bit.ly/2kyaqq5">http://bit.ly/2kyaqq5</a> ; or <a href="http://bit.ly/2jTHPdQ">http://bit.ly/2jTHPdQ</a> // Repeating many times debunked myths about "junta" or non-spontaneity of Maidan. See above.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>
03.02.2017	RUS	Ukraine asked the United States to spread the Ebola virus among pro-Russian separatists in Donetsk.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2lfrJMZ">http://bit.ly/2lfrJMZ</a>	Vremya pokazhet' (37:20)	Conspiracy theory, no evidence given. Illogical accusation, given the fact that the United States has done more than any other country to help West Africa defeat the Ebola crisis. <a href="http://bit.ly/2jTtQJm">http://bit.ly/2jTtQJm</a> .	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
03.02.2017	RUS	The Ukrainian elite has created a state with Nazi ideology that calls for genocide and glorifies the Holocaust, anti-Semitism and fascism.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2lfrJMZ">http://bit.ly/2lfrJMZ</a>	Vremya pokazhet' (25:46)	An often repeated disinformation about Ukraine, but still we have seen no evidence that the Ukrainian state is run by Nazism or that they have carried out a genocide.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
03.02.2017	RUS	Concerning the UN resolution on the Territorial integrity of Ukraine (UNGA resolution 68/262 of 03.15.2014), there were more votes against than for.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2lfrJMZ">http://bit.ly/2lfrJMZ</a>	Vremya pokazhet' (16:16)	UNGA Resolution 68/262, which condemned Russia's illegal actions in Ukraine, was supported by 100 United Nations member states. Only 10 states opposed it. <a href="http://bit.ly/1RZGnjo">http://bit.ly/1RZGnjo</a> .	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
03.02.2017	RUS	The current Ukrainian authorities hate all the Ukrainians and carry out their policies on this base.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2lfrJMZ">http://bit.ly/2lfrJMZ</a>	Vremya pokazhet' (37:42)	Illogical, no evidence given for the claims.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
03.02.2017	RUS/ENG	A call took place between Jens Stoltenberg, the NATO Secretary General, and a prankster pretending to be President Poroshenko.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kdoiWi">http://bit.ly/2kdoiWi</a>	<u>Life.ru</u>	The audio is likely rehashed/remixed from previous public appearances of Mr Stoltenberg. No phone call with the NATO Secretary General took place, and the audio is a fabrication. <a href="http://bit.ly/1us4Kgn">http://bit.ly/1us4Kgn</a>	NATO
04.02.2017	ENG	Former French Economy Minister Macron could be a US Agent.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2lcl6de">http://bit.ly/2lcl6de</a>	Sputnik	No evidence given to the claims.	East Stratcom Network
04.02.2017	ITA	Germany wants to exit the Eurozone by the end of 2017	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kz3cTI">http://bit.ly/2kz3cTI</a>	L'Economico	No official statements from Germany to support these claims.	East Stratcom Network

DISCLAIMER: Every Thursday, the Disinformation Review brings you the latest cases of news articles carrying key examples of how pro-Kremlin disinformation finds its way in international media, as well as news and analysis on the topic. The review focuses on key messages carried in international media which have been identified as providing a partial, distorted or false view or interpretation and/or spreading key pro-Kremlin messaging. It does not necessarily imply however that the outlet concerned is linked to the Kremlin or pro-Kremlin, or that it has intentionally sought to disinform. The Review is a compilation of cases from the East StratCom Task Force's wide network of contributors and therefore cannot be considered an official EU position. Likewise, the news articles are based on the analysis of the East StratCom Task Force, so information and opinions expressed there cannot be considered an official EU position. Any errors or misrepresentations should be reported to the East Stratcom Task Force for correction at [disinforeview@euvsdisinfo.eu](mailto:disinforeview@euvsdisinfo.eu)