

## Disinformation Review Issue No 49 - 29 November

Date	Language / Targeted Audience	Summary of the Disinformation	Link to the Disinformation	Disinforming outlet (s)	Disproof	Reported by
18.11.2016	RUS	The Baltic countries should show gratitude that they were allowed to leave the Soviet Union peacefully.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2g7qfIT">http://bit.ly/2g7qfIT</a>	Vremya Pokazhet (1:04:00)	The Baltic States declared independence in 1990 and 1991. 14 Peaceful defenders of independence in Lithuania and 7 in Latvia were killed, hundreds were wounded in attempts by Soviet forces to quell the rebellion: <a href="http://bit.ly/2fE1gEF">http://bit.ly/2fE1gEF</a> , <a href="http://nyti.ms/2dzcCcp">http://nyti.ms/2dzcCcp</a>	Source from an EU country
18.11.2016	RUS	Russia gave the Baltic states the freedom they dreamed of.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2g7qfIT">http://bit.ly/2g7qfIT</a>	Vremya Pokazhet (15:08)	All three Baltic States re-gained independence as a consequence of decades long anti-Soviet resistance, non-recognition of occupation of the Baltic States de-iure by current EU members, US, Canada, Australia as well as a non-violent movements across all three Baltic states known as Singing Revolution.	Source from an EU country
18.11.2016	RUS	The Baltic countries do not have independent politics.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2g7qfIT">http://bit.ly/2g7qfIT</a>	Vremya Pokazhet (20:24)	The Baltic States are sovereign nations making independent decisions based on national security interest of each country and benefit of people living there. All three nations decided voluntarily to become members of UN, OSCE, NATO, EU, Latvia and Estonia are members of OECD and Lithuania is on its way to the club of most developed countries.	Source from an EU country
18.11.2016	CZE	A deal has been struck between the French government and radicals about establishing Sharia in specific areas of France. According to Frontex, the agency is officially not allowed to return the migrants back to Africa.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2gvFmrG">http://bit.ly/2gvFmrG</a>	Parlamentní listy	No evidence given for this conspiracy theory. Frontex does not return migrants in the way described since it is not in the mandate of the agency, it is Member States' responsibility.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>
21.11.2016	RUS	NATO was planning to base ships and missiles in Crimea to threaten Moscow	<a href="http://bit.ly/2fuCsSO">http://bit.ly/2fuCsSO</a>	REN TV "Ukraine in Flames" (1:09:54)	The idea has never been proposed, suggested or discussed within NATO. <a href="http://bit.ly/1NYTQ8J">http://bit.ly/1NYTQ8J</a>	Source from an EU country

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21.11.2016	ENG	Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that the choice of the Crimean residents who voted for reunification with Russia should be respected avoiding double standards. Putin recalled that more than 90% of Crimeans voted for reunification with Russia.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2gybEjf">http://bit.ly/2gybEjf</a>	TASS, citing the film "Ukraine on Fire" aired at REN TV	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.	Source from an EU country
21.11.2016	RUS	Unlike the US, Russia recognizes the right of any other country to exist as a sovereign state.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2gkhSmu">http://bit.ly/2gkhSmu</a>	Vremya pokazhet (38:17)	Contradicted not least by Russia's illegal actions in Ukraine. The European Union does not recognise and continues to strongly condemn this violation of international law, which remains a challenge to the international security order. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 68/262, adopted on 27 March 2014 and supported by 100 states, clearly says that Russia's actions in the peninsula as well as the referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea violate international law <a href="http://bit.ly/1RZGnjo">http://bit.ly/1RZGnjo</a> .	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
21.11.2016	RUS	There was a military-fascist coup in Ukraine.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2gkhSmu">http://bit.ly/2gkhSmu</a>	Vremya pokazhet (10:43)	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. The total number of members of radical groups, e.g. the "Right Sector", never amounted to more than a few hundred to a maximum of a thousand people. The vast majority of the protesters (up to two million at one time nationwide) consisted of peaceful Ukrainian citizens <a href="http://bit.ly/1TI9X7W">http://bit.ly/1TI9X7W</a> .	Pavel Spirin, former journalist

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21.11.2016	RUS	The Russians and the Ukrainians are the same nation.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2gkhSmu">http://bit.ly/2gkhSmu</a>	Vremya pokazhet (30:04)	Ukraine is recognised in international law as a sovereign nation state, with its own flag, nationality, language etc. Ukrainian citizens are citizens of Ukraine, not Russia.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
21.11.2016	RUS	In 2013-2014, there was no 'Revolution of Dignity' in Ukraine, there was a successful mission of the secret services of the West there aiming at the overthrowing of the pro-Russian government of Yanukovich.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2foAqFn">http://bit.ly/2foAqFn</a>	Mesto vstrechi (07:21)	No evidence given for this conspiracy theory.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
22.11.2016	RUS	Because of bad economic policies, Estonia, Latvia can't be effective countries and protect their interests.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2gi7qLf">http://bit.ly/2gi7qLf</a>	Mesto Vstrechi (02:31, 14:56)	The Baltic countries have been a showcase of successful transformation after regaining independence following 50 years of Soviet occupation. This includes free market economies, well-functioning democratic institutions and legal system. <a href="http://bit.ly/K11iGM">http://bit.ly/K11iGM</a> , <a href="http://bloom.bg/2eSwg3K">http://bloom.bg/2eSwg3K</a> // In 1995 in LV GDP per capita was 2.327 USD compared to 13.664 USD in 2015. In 1995 EE GDP per capita was 3.036 USD compared to 17.295 USD in 2015 <a href="http://bit.ly/1eRbn2E">http://bit.ly/1eRbn2E</a>	Source from an EU country

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22.11.2016	RUS	The Baltic countries are developing apartheid regimes, like South African, in order to discriminate against ethnic Russians there under the guise of European values.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2qi7qLf">http://bit.ly/2qi7qLf</a>	Mesto Vstrechi (11:30)	There is no apartheid system in any of the Baltic states. The Estonian Government considers the process of integration in the Estonian society and the promotion of Estonian citizenship as one of its priorities and has facilitated a naturalization process for all legal residents who wish to acquire Estonian citizenship <a href="http://bit.ly/2fbkUwj">http://bit.ly/2fbkUwj</a> . The number of people with undetermined citizenship (grey passports) in Estonia is gradually decreasing: according to the Ministry of Interior Affairs, the number is 80,010 (6% of population, as of August 2016), compared to 500,000 (32%) in 1992. The naturalisation process in Latvia is amongst the most liberal in Europe <a href="http://bit.ly/2dFhG3u">http://bit.ly/2dFhG3u</a> . Furthermore, the Mayor of Riga is of a mixed Russian-Latvian origin. Lithuania granted citizenship to all its residents at the time of independence redeclaration day willing to have it, without requiring them to learn Lithuanian.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
22.11.2016	RUS	Latvia is a transit country and is not producing anything.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2qi7qLf">http://bit.ly/2qi7qLf</a>	Mesto Vstrechi (40:09)	Transport, transit and storage sector contribute to 8% of LV GDP (2014 data). <a href="http://bit.ly/2fMG42A">http://bit.ly/2fMG42A</a> . Manufacturing & other industry contribute to 16% of GDP (2014 data) ( <a href="http://bit.ly/2gRV1Cn">http://bit.ly/2gRV1Cn</a> ) // Latvia produces within several different categories <a href="http://bit.ly/2fTc8zK">http://bit.ly/2fTc8zK</a>	Source from an EU country
22.11.2016	RUS	The Baltic countries are not independent and historically they have not been independent, usually living either under either Swedish or German rule.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2qi7qLf">http://bit.ly/2qi7qLf</a>	Mesto Vstrechi (1:09:20)	Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became independent in 1918. Three countries were invaded, occupied and illegally incorporated first by the Soviet Union, then by Nazi Germany from 1941 to 1944, and again by the Soviet Union from 1944 to 1991, when they regained the independence: <a href="http://bit.ly/2gsLi1T">http://bit.ly/2gsLi1T</a>	Source from an EU country

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22.11.2016	RUS	The Baltic countries are the enemies of Moscow and use neo-Nazi methods against Russia in order to impose "European values" there and undermine the regime of president Putin.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2gw78Ry">http://bit.ly/2gw78Ry</a>	Mesto vstrechi (28:00, 38:36)	No evidence given for this conspiracy theory.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
22.11.2016	CZE	The new Czech Ministry of Interior's Centre for countering terrorism and hybrid threats is going to be the government's censorship body.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2fCigLA">http://bit.ly/2fCigLA</a>	Parlamentní listy	The new Centre will be tasked with monitoring the disinformation efforts in the Czech republic, proposing legislative or countermeasures and spread awareness among the public.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>
23.11.2016	ENG	Russian media are more free and democratic than the Western ones.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2fr2Aut">http://bit.ly/2fr2Aut</a>	Consortium News	The 2016 World Press Freedom Index ( <a href="http://bit.ly/1YGtJug">http://bit.ly/1YGtJug</a> ) gives EU member States an average ranking of 33rd out of 180 countries, with five EU countries in the world's top 10 for press freedom. In contrast, Russia ranks 148 out of 180 countries. This represents a significant deterioration: in 2001, Russia was deemed partly free and ranked 60th: <a href="http://bit.ly/2ds1vlp">http://bit.ly/2ds1vlp</a> . <a href="http://bit.ly/1ryMyWo">http://bit.ly/1ryMyWo</a>	Promote Ukraine
23.11.2016	RUS	The European Parliament's resolution on anti-EU propaganda from Russia and Islamist terrorist groups equates the Russian media with the propaganda of Daesh.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2fFZg2a">http://bit.ly/2fFZg2a</a>	Vremya pokazhet (00:35)	The resolution stresses that the EU needs to counter disinformation campaigns and propaganda from third states, such as Russia, and non-state actors, like Daesh, Al-Qaeda and other violent jihadi terrorist groups. There is a clear distinction between these. The resolution also describes the differences. <a href="http://bit.ly/2fqP0KY">http://bit.ly/2fqP0KY</a>	Pavel Spirin, former journalist

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23.11.2016	RUS	There is no independent media in the West, everything is propaganda.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2fFZg2a">http://bit.ly/2fFZg2a</a>	Vremya pokazhet (08:40)	In fact, there is objective reporting. There are standards by which quality journalism is measured and to which professional journalists adhere. Those standards exclude receiving instructions from the government on what to write and what not to write; forging pictures and faking testimony; or being awarded military medals for reporting in the way the government wants <a href="http://bit.ly/2eozUEg">http://bit.ly/2eozUEg</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/2dGuEut">http://bit.ly/2dGuEut</a> . // The 2016 World Press Freedom Index ( <a href="http://bit.ly/1YGtJug">http://bit.ly/1YGtJug</a> ) gives EU member States an average ranking of 33rd out of 180 countries, with five EU countries in the world's top 10 for press freedom. In contrast, Russia ranks 148 out of 180 countries. This represents a significant deterioration: in 2001, Russia was deemed partly free and ranked 60th: <a href="http://bit.ly/2ds1vlp">http://bit.ly/2ds1vlp</a> . <a href="http://bit.ly/1ryMyWo">http://bit.ly/1ryMyWo</a>	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
23.11.2016	RUS	The US State Department has not provided any evidence that the Syrian or Russian Air Forces were bombing Syrian hospitals because in fact there was no bombing there.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2fFZg2a">http://bit.ly/2fFZg2a</a>	Vremya pokazhet (15:56)	There is a lot of open source information, satellite imagery, and information gathered from local groups confirming the hospitals in Syria were bombed, see e.g. <a href="http://bit.ly/2fCDKKz">http://bit.ly/2fCDKKz</a>	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
23.11.2016	RUS	The EU has always been under the total control of the US.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2gzM2CO">http://bit.ly/2gzM2CO</a>	Mesto vstrechi (03:48)	EU Member States make sovereign decisions about their own security and policies. The US is an important ally to the EU but EU policy is not determined by the US, as explained by Federica Mogherini. <a href="http://bit.ly/2f0tUmu">http://bit.ly/2f0tUmu</a>	Pavel Spirin, former journalist

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23.11.2016	RUS	There are no Russian troops in Ukraine, but even if they were there, their withdrawal from Ukraine would not lead to the removal of anti-Russian sanctions by the West.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2gzM2CO">http://bit.ly/2gzM2CO</a>	Mesto vstrechi (1:32:53)	President Putin himself admitted to the presence of Russian "people there, who deal with certain matters, including in the military area" [aka soldiers] in December 2015 <a href="http://bit.ly/1kC94ch">http://bit.ly/1kC94ch</a> and again in October 2016 <a href="http://bit.ly/2enbpt2">http://bit.ly/2enbpt2</a> . He even awarded medals to Russian soldiers who fought in Donbass <a href="http://bit.ly/2dsPbWN">http://bit.ly/2dsPbWN</a> . And Russian Minister of Defence Sergei Shoygu awarded a medal to a Russian soldier for fighting near Debaltseve <a href="http://bit.ly/2eNYKka">http://bit.ly/2eNYKka</a> . // If Russia implements the Minsk II agreements, which includes the withdrawal of their forces from Ukraine, the sanctions will be removed.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
23.11.2016	RUS	For many years, the US-led Europe has been carrying out a Nazi policy of a "geopolitical racism" towards Russia, convincing the Russians that they are the "wrong nation" where uncivilized methods are allowed to be used.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2gMOclM">http://bit.ly/2gMOclM</a>	Večer s Vladimírom Solovjovym (28:41)	No evidence given for this conspiracy theory. 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
23.11.2016	RUS	The MEPs' resolution on anti-EU propaganda from Russia and Islamist terrorist groups demonstrates that Catholicism in Europe has been passing through the de-Christianization for about 600 years already.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2gMOclM">http://bit.ly/2gMOclM</a>	Večer s Vladimírom Solovjovym (2:00:30)	No evidence given and no explanation provided for these claims.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
23.11.2016	CZE	The German government censors content on Facebook in order to ensure that Angela Merkel gets elected for her fourth term as the chancellor of Germany.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2fTXbNG">http://bit.ly/2fTXbNG</a>	Parlamentní listy	In reality there is an ongoing discussion in Germany whether Facebook should be treated not as a technological company but as a media company. Its content should also come under more scrutiny due to the dissemination of fake news and hate speech - which does not mean censorship.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>

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24.11.2016	CZE	NATO is intentionally surrounding Russia.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2fpi9rF">http://bit.ly/2fpi9rF</a>	Protiproud	NATO has consistently worked hard to build a cooperative relationship with Russia since the early 1990s: no other NATO partner has been offered a comparable relationship, nor a similarly comprehensive institutional framework: <a href="http://bit.ly/2e0TZnG">http://bit.ly/2e0TZnG</a> .	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>

DISCLAIMER: The Disinformation Review is a compilation of reports received from members of the EEAS East Stratcom mythbusting network, which comprises of over 400 experts, journalists, officials, NGOs and Think Tanks in over 30 countries. Please note that opinions and judgements expressed here do not represent official EU positions.