

## Disinformation Review Issue No 56 - 2 February 2017

Date	Language / Targeted Audience	Summary	Link	Outlet(s)	Disproof	Reported by
14.01.2017	BUL	Hundreds of Russian missile defense systems S-400 were suddenly brought into a state of high alert on the orders of President Putin, who received a "serious warning" by the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) which claims that the CIA prepares to murder the president-elect US Donald Trump in order to accuse Russia for the murder and let that serve as a reason to start a war with Russia.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2j8O01x">http://bit.ly/2j8O01x</a>	<a href="http://spodeli.eu">spodeli.eu</a>	Conspiracy theory. Nothing of the sort happened. The disinformation about CIA plotting against the US president has been widely spread in pro-Kremlin messaging <a href="http://bit.ly/2jQUgHP">http://bit.ly/2jQUgHP</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/2juL2zW">http://bit.ly/2juL2zW</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/2jyFhRy">http://bit.ly/2jyFhRy</a> .	East Stratcom Network
14.01.2017	RUS	Ukraine Begins Hunt For Separatists	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kKvXuU">http://bit.ly/2kKvXuU</a>	<a href="http://Pravda.ru">Pravda.ru</a>	The story was spread in plenty of publications but all were written by one person, whose byline often appears in separatist publications. The base for the claim is an internet petition about criminal responsibility for separatism registered on President Poroshenko's site on January 12. To date the petition has gathered 73 signatures. Anyone can register a petition or appeal on the presidential site. If the petition gathers 25,000 supporters the President is obliged to respond, but even a presidential response does not guarantee any legislative change. <a href="http://bit.ly/2kEEyQC">http://bit.ly/2kEEyQC</a>	<a href="http://Stopfake.org">Stopfake.org</a>
16.01.2017	CZE	Thousands of U.S. tanks flow into Europe.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2juL2zW">http://bit.ly/2juL2zW</a>	AC24	Most likely, the text refers to the Operation Atlantic Resolve. The enforcement includes 87 tanks, not thousands. <a href="http://bit.ly/2bFynsP">http://bit.ly/2bFynsP</a> .	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>
16.01.2017	GEO	The Brussels bureaucracy has not been elected by anyone.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2juXFLb">http://bit.ly/2juXFLb</a>	Objektivi	Selfevidently, if the claim concerns the bureaucrats - no, they are not elected as is the case in any similar system. If the claims concerns the politicians; the European Parliament is elected by the 500-million population of the EU and amounts to 751 MEPs. The Council of the European Union consists of ministers of all member states of the EU, from parties elected by their member states population. European Council is composed by the heads of government or heads of state of the member countries, elected by the parties their population voted for <a href="http://bit.ly/2kj5Zlo">http://bit.ly/2kj5Zlo</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/2jKazlx">http://bit.ly/2jKazlx</a> .	Myth Detector

18.01.2017	CZE	"Russian threat" serves as a pretext for the operation Atlantic Resolve to enable an attack against Russia.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kizHqu">http://bit.ly/2kizHqu</a>	Protiproud	Atlantic Resolve is a demonstration of continued U.S. commitment to collective security through a series of actions designed to reassure NATO allies and partners of America's dedication to enduring peace and stability in the region in light of the Russian intervention in Ukraine. There is no evidence that the intension is to attack Russia, who has vastly superior forces. <a href="http://bit.ly/2bFynsP">http://bit.ly/2bFynsP</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/2h8GMc7">http://bit.ly/2h8GMc7</a>	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>
19.01.2017	RUS	Ukrainian naval ships are stuck in the ice of the Black Sea.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kimaiC">http://bit.ly/2kimaiC</a>	Zvezda	Cited in many Russian state sources, the Odessa news portal O48 was claimed as their source of this completely fake claim. O48 did in fact have a story about winter weather in Odessa, colorfully describing how ice floes had formed in the Gulf of Odessa and captured the harbor where Ukrainian naval vessels are docked. The story was accompanied by an air view photograph of ships in their harbor. The story had no mention of ships stuck in a frozen harbor. Odessa naval transportation specialist Ihor Kosov told StopFake that in order for the Black Sea around Odessa to freeze temperatures had to stay 20 degrees below zero Celsius for several weeks. Odessa has not been experiencing such low temperatures during this time. <a href="http://bit.ly/2kidljq">http://bit.ly/2kidljq</a>	<a href="http://stopfake.org">Stopfake.org</a>
19.01.2017	CZE	Ukrainian parliament decided to host multinational exercises in Ukraine as preparation for invading Russia.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2k8c2ab">http://bit.ly/2k8c2ab</a>	New World Order	No evidence to support these claims. None of the official documents accessible on the UA parliament's webpage includes anything that suggest that the exercises are preparations for an invasion of Russia. According to the The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, the Russian Federation deployed members of its armed forces to gain control over parts of the Ukrainian territory without the consent of the Ukrainian Government. <a href="http://bit.ly/2ftv6iT">http://bit.ly/2ftv6iT</a> .	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>
19.01.2017	RUS	Ukrainian parliament decided to host multinational exercises in Ukraine as preparation for invading Russia.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2k8fhOO">http://bit.ly/2k8fhOO</a>	Polit navigator	Russian translation of the article above.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>

20.01.2017	CZE	Czech Ministry of interior established a new department for censorship called The Centre Against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kBf3Pw">http://bit.ly/2kBf3Pw</a>	<a href="http://Aeronet.cz">Aeronet.cz</a>	The new center is intended to monitor internal security threats, including attacks on soft targets and extremism, as well as "disinformation campaigns related to internal security." They do not censor. <a href="http://bit.ly/2kboybB">http://bit.ly/2kboybB</a>	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>
21.01.2017	CZE	Former Ukrainian PM Arseniy Yatsenuk purchased 24 expensive properties in Miami.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kb69f2">http://bit.ly/2kb69f2</a>	AC24	The article uses information from the blog of an Ukrainian businessman without providing any further information or evidence to support this allegation. Yatsenyuk has filed a lawsuit against the blogger who wrote about his alleged purchase of 24 villas in Miami <a href="http://bit.ly/2kBdaSQ">http://bit.ly/2kBdaSQ</a> .	Collected by the Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI) within the framework of the Centre for International Relations' project co-financed by the Visegrad Fund
21.01.2017	RUS	EU will punish Moldova for its closer relations with Russia. Moldova will lose the visa-free regime the EU.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kjp3jP">http://bit.ly/2kjp3jP</a>	Sputnik	Visa liberalisation with the EU is a technical process, not a political process. Furthermore, the EU has not made any statements threatening to withdraw visa free regime if Moldova aligns with Russia.	East Stratcom Network
22.01.2017	RUS	Ukraine is poised to enact a new language law which will ban Russian and make Ukrainian the sole and exclusive language in the country.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kJpPaw">http://bit.ly/2kJpPaw</a>	Russia Today (RT)	It is an often repeated disinformation that Russian is or will be banned in Ukraine. According to Ukraine's Constitution and the Law on languages, every person is guaranteed the right to choose the language he or she wishes to speak and no restrictions have ever been enacted limiting that choice (see Article 10: <a href="http://bit.ly/2ep35dP">http://bit.ly/2ep35dP</a> ). The draft law under consideration in the Ukrainian parliament allows the use of languages other than Ukrainian in government business but requires translation into Ukrainian. <a href="http://bit.ly/2kKuipe">http://bit.ly/2kKuipe</a>	<a href="http://Stopfake.org">Stopfake.org</a>
23.01.2017	RUS	Kiev authorities are trying to ban Russian language in Ukraine.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kiGtga">http://bit.ly/2kiGtga</a>	Rossiya 24	See the debunk above.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>
24.01.2017	BUL	The European Court is banning baptism.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2jvytnU">http://bit.ly/2jvytnU</a>	BGnews	This disinformation was also circulated one year ago <a href="http://bit.ly/2kKQhAI">http://bit.ly/2kKQhAI</a> . No European Court has banned baptism, as freedom of religion and belief is a cornerstone of EU <a href="http://bit.ly/2hpoQ9v">http://bit.ly/2hpoQ9v</a> .	East Stratcom Network

24.01.2017	CZE	Berlin plans to realize a model called Das neue Europa. Europe will be under complete control of Berlin, national states will lose their statehood, sovereignty and national identity. Germany, France and Sweden are prepared for this.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kK7Lth">http://bit.ly/2kK7Lth</a>	<a href="http://Aeronet.cz">Aeronet.cz</a>	Conspiracy theory. The article claims that the information comes from an article in Handelsblatt but in fact it links to another outlet, which misrepresents what Gabriel states in the original article. In the Handelsblatt article, Sigmar Gabriel says "Now is the time to strengthen Europe. Only about 10 percent of our exports go to the United States, while 60 percent go to the rest of Europe. You can see the weight of our economic interests. We need to strengthen Europe, develop a common foreign and security policy, beef up investments so that we'll have the best infrastructure in the world and, most of all, develop our own Asia, India and China strategy. We don't need "more Europe," but rather a different Europe." <a href="http://bit.ly/2kMSknz">http://bit.ly/2kMSknz</a>	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>
24.01.2017	CZE	Nobody in the Czech Republic witnesses any form of so-called Russian propaganda". The Centre Against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats is an institute which is going to identify only "one truth".	<a href="http://bit.ly/2jpBTx9">http://bit.ly/2jpBTx9</a>	<a href="http://nwoo.org">nwoo.org</a>	<p>The Czech security services as well as a recent Czech security review conclude that disinformation campaigns are threat a to Czech national security. The Centre will not react exclusively to pro-Kremlin disinformation content, they will be assessing every disinformation campaign regardless of its origin or character. Also, the Centre will be issuing statements and commentaries to the media, whether a citizen will or will not take the CTHT position into account is solely up to each individual.</p> <p>The Centre can, at most, pass information to law enforcement agencies if they suspect a crime occurred (a right that every citizen and institution in Czech Republic has), the investigation and decision is then solely up to law enforcement agencies and then judicial power: <a href="http://bit.ly/2kboybB">http://bit.ly/2kboybB</a></p>	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), <a href="http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/">http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/</a>

24.01.2017	RUS	There was a coup in Ukraine in 2014.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kbMRDO">http://bit.ly/2kbMRDO</a>	'Vremya pokazhet' (3:26) @Pervyi kanal	There were democratic and inclusive Presidential elections held on 25 May 2014 in Ukraine. 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." This fact was reconfirmed by the parliamentary elections of 26 October 2014, where parties devoted to democratic values received the strong majority of votes. The OSCE characterised the vote as "an amply contested election that offered voters real choice, and a general respect for fundamental freedoms". It pointed out that "Electoral authorities made resolute efforts to organize elections throughout the country, but they could not be held in parts of the regions (oblasts) of Donetsk and Luhansk or on the Crimean peninsula".	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
24.01.2017	RUS	Ukrainian authorities are pursuing a policy of state terrorism against the citizens of this country in the Donbass region in order to create unbearable conditions for life there.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kbMRDO">http://bit.ly/2kbMRDO</a>	'Vremya pokazhet' (4:59) @Pervyi kanal	No evidence given. Because of the aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine, Kyiv cannot control the Donbass and, according to the Ukrainian law, the Donbass region got the status of an occupied territory. <a href="http://bit.ly/2ftv6iT">http://bit.ly/2ftv6iT</a>	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
24.01.2017	RUS	Officers of foreign intelligence services run Ukraine with the aim to force Ukrainians to kill each other in the war.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kbMRDO">http://bit.ly/2kbMRDO</a>	'Vremya pokazhet' (4:59) @Pervyi kanal	Conspiracy theory. No evidence given.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
24.01.2017	RUS	The reason for the annexation of Crimea and the war in Donbass is the desire of the inhabitants of these two Ukrainian regions to speak Russian.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kbMRDO">http://bit.ly/2kbMRDO</a>	'Vremya pokazhet' (1:06:08) @Pervyi kanal	Repeating an already debunked myth. No state body of Ukraine and no official of this country disallowed the inhabitants of Crimea or Donbass to speak Russian.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
25.01.2017	HUN	The Ukrainian government shells the leader of the OSCE monitoring mission in Ukraine, Alexander Hug when he visits the front lines in eastern Ukraine.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2kaLIIB">http://bit.ly/2kaLIIB</a>	Kiállunk Novorosszija Mellett – Support Donbass from Hungary	Whereas the OSCE Monitoring mission to Ukraine reports that there are ceasefire violations on both sides of the conflict, they do not mention any situation where Mr Alexander Hug was present and had been shelled by the Ukrainian Armed Forces <a href="http://bit.ly/2j9BJ8q">http://bit.ly/2j9BJ8q</a> .	Political Capital Institute

