

Disinformation Review Issue No 44 - 18 October

Date	Language / Targeted Audience	Summary of the Disinformation	Link to the Disinformation	Disinforming outlet (s)	Disproof	Reported by
06.10.2016	CZE	MH17 was shot down by two UA fighters	http://bit.ly/2dgHpz8	Nova republika	The MH17 investigation by the JIT disproves these claims. http://bit.ly/2dgJriS	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
06.10.2016	RUS	Anti-Russian rhetoric and pro-Western policies are growing in the Belarusian government. Belarusian authorities has failed to impede pro-Western opposition in organizing russophobic and nationalist actions. (in reference to the small number of pickets in front of the Russian embassy in March and April 2016).	http://bit.ly/2dPjwOI	http://rusnext.ru/	In fact, Belarusian authorities continue to violate the freedom of assembly, persecuting participants of “unsanctioned” public demonstrations and pickets. The mentioned pickets in front of the Russian embassy were not an exception in this regard. A number of their participants were persecuted and accused of participation in an unsanctioned event, and were issued with high fines. http://bit.ly/2dPkUke and http://bit.ly/2dDjkUE	EAST Center Research Fellow Veranika Laputka
07.10.2016	RUS	Lithuanian intellectuals suggest awarding Putin with Nobel Peace Prize “for his outstanding contribution to the preservation of stability in the world and a clear position in strengthening international diplomacy.”	http://bit.ly/2dlpD9A	Baltnews	No evidence given. The “intellectuals” are not named. Only reported in pro-Kremlin media.	East StratCom Network
07.10.2016	GER	Germans trust Russia more than the US in the context of TTIP, according to Angela Merkel.	http://bit.ly/2d9E14q	RT	RT are referring to a high level event of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) where Merkel held a speech, http://bit.ly/2dtAoHf , in which she did not say that Germans trust Russia over the US, but hints at the idea that the opposition to TTIP could be politically motivated by anti-Americanism.	East StratCom Network

07.10.2016	CZE	The Czech Television use brutal propaganda and manipulation to influence the election.	http://bit.ly/2elpqql	BezPolitickeKorektnosti	Czech Television acts in accordance with the law on public services in the area of public broadcasting and Czech Television Code, which was approved by the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament on 2 July 2003. Violations of impartiality and independence are subjected to the Board of the Czech television. CT provides independent and impartial news, pre-election and election broadcasts corresponding to predetermined rules. http://bit.ly/2dWqUrk . The Czech republic ranks as number 21 in the world on the World Press Freedom Index. http://bit.ly/1YGtJug	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
08.10.2016	RUS	The German pro-Kremlin journalist Hubert Seipel and his positive view of Putin defines the view of almost all the European and American audiences.	http://bit.ly/2ek8f6l	NTV	The impact of Hubert Seipel's movies, interviews and book "Putin: Innenansichten der Macht" is exaggerated. His interview with Vladimir Putin on 14th November 2014 was sharply criticized in some German outlets. http://bit.ly/1W7pGue . The alternative biographies of Putin are also well known. http://bit.ly/2dUQLj7	East StratCom Network
10.10.2016	RUS	There are US snipers fighting on the Ukrainian side in the Eastern Ukraine.	http://bit.ly/2dIAAFB	Komsomolskaya Pravda	The information comes from clearly biased source Eduard Basurin, defence spokesperson of self-proclaimed Donetsk Peoples Republic. On October 10 Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak met US Senator Joe Donnelly to discuss US support for Ukraine, however there was no mention of any US snipers working in East Ukraine. Since spring 2016, three Americans have officially and openly volunteered with the Ukrainian armed forces, signing a contract as required by Ukrainian law. Of the three, one has since left Ukraine. http://bit.ly/2eiyEki	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
10.10.2016	RUS	US Military personnel have been warned to prepare for tactical nuclear exchange with Russia in Syria, according to the American News Agency "Newsroom".	http://bit.ly/2eqWONv	Ruski Kod	No evidence for the claims given. The claims does not come from an American News Agency, but from a webpage called Superstation95, belonging to a small radio station that seems to focus on conspiracy theories.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
10.10.2016	RUS	The war in Syria was organized by the US as a blow to Russian interests, since Assad would not let the US build a gaspipe through his country.	http://bit.ly/2dL5n3m	Film on youtube - removed	No evidence for the claims given. Syria's bloody internal conflict began with pro-democracy protests in March 2011 before escalating into a full-scale civil war http://bbc.in/1ICPcBw	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher

10.10.2016	RUS	Genghis Khan was a Russian prince.	http://bit.ly/2e1DvHp	Strannoe Delo	Genghis Khan was the founder of the Mongolian Empire http://bit.ly/2dcBRB1	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
12.10.2016	RUS	The attack on the Syrian Arab Red Crescent aid convoy in mid September was perpetrated by terrorists, but the US are comfortable with blaming Russia.	http://bit.ly/2evHgsz	RT	Bellingcat has provided proof that the convoy was bombed by Russian-made munitions, used by Russian and/or Syrian air forces. http://bit.ly/2denvG1	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
14.10.2016	CZE	The attack on the Syrian Arab Red Crescent aid convoy in mid September was perpetrated by terrorists, but the US are comfortable with blaming Russia.	http://bit.ly/2ec10yM	Parlamentni Listy	Czech translation of the RT disinformation article mentioned above.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
16.10.2016	RUS	Ukraine fears mass exodus if Russian visas are introduced, according to Ukrainian Foreign Ministry official Oleksii Makeiev.	http://bit.ly/2dUMtsh	Baltnews Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia	While Makeiev did discuss the possibility of introducing visas, he did not say anything about the possibility of Ukrainians massively fleeing to Russia. He did say that Ukraine should be clear as to what its goals are if visas for Russians are introduced and to expect a response from Russia. http://bit.ly/2dsGydq	Biedriba Novosti
16.10.2016	RUS	During the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council (UNIC) in Dnpr, a French politician demanded proof of Russian aggression in Ukraine.	http://bit.ly/2dTmpwu	Rubaltic.ru	The French politician did not demand proof of aggression but he emphasized the necessity of visual images in Europe, in order for the public in NATO countries to understand the situation. http://bit.ly/2eiF6aK , http://bit.ly/2eby9tc	Biedriba Novosti
16.10.2016	RUS	University student expelled for asking President Poroshenko "uncomfortable question".	http://bit.ly/2dsTS1g	MIR	The video of the meeting (http://bit.ly/2eFKvgz) shows that one of the students called out a question about the war to the President. The student in question is a student at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy and he is not being expelled for asking the President a challenging question. Kyiv Mohyla president Andriy Meleshevysh said that he was proud that their students think critically and added that believing that a university would expel a student for challenging official authority shows a complete lack understanding of what freedom of speech is about. http://bit.ly/2dEkuNn	StopFake.org
16.10.2016	RUS	Polls show that a majority of Ukrainians don't want to vote.	http://bit.ly/2e5CCik	Ukraina.ru	Manipulative presentation of a poll conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) - Ukraina.ru claims that the group "not sure" about coming to the elections doesn't want to vote. http://bit.ly/2eiRAzd . In the 2014 presidential elections in Ukraine, 60% of the population voted.	StopFake.org

16.10.2016	RUS	International MH17 investigation team ignores Russian radar data	http://bit.ly/2eFKNUt	RIA Novosti	In response to StopFake's inquiry about the radar data, the Joint Investigation Team said they had not received any such data. http://bit.ly/2e8hpWo . Dutch prosecutors also confirmed to the Moscow Times that Russia had not provided them any radar data. http://bit.ly/2e8gt4g	StopFake.org
16.10.2016	RUS	Ukraine's Defense Ministry invites separatist militants to join its ranks, urging the separatists to turn themselves in together with tanks and APCs.	http://bit.ly/2ekrVrq	Rosbalt	The Ukrainian military has launched a program called "They're waiting for you at home" which allows those separatist militants who have had a change of heart and have not committed crimes to return home to their families and be rehabilitated. On his Facebook page, Ukrainian military spokesman Andriy Lysenko speculates that it would be good if separatists who hand in military hardware to the Ukrainian side could be either acquitted by a court or have their sentence reduced. These are personal ideas of Lysenko and not Ukrainian official policy. http://bit.ly/2ea6gAz	StopFake.org
16.10.2016	RUS	The US demands that Russia makes concessions that Moscow cannot accept, which is why Russia dissolves the nuclear pact with Washington, sends 5000 troops into Egypt and new warships in the Mediterranean Sea, holds a civil defense exercise on the protection of 40 million Russians from a nuclear attack and deploys S-300 missile systems Syria.	http://bit.ly/2evsUZg	Vesti nedeli	The U.S. demands that Russia and Syria halts their bombing of Aleppo and that Russia respects international law. http://bloom.bg/2dY2lwk	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
16.10.2016	RUS	The Ukrainian authorities are destroying their country's industry and brainwashing its population in exchange for money from the West.	http://bit.ly/2eePCoY	Vremya pokazhet (03:34)	Conspiracy theory, no evidence given. The thing that damages the Ukrainian economy most is the war in the East (http://bit.ly/1GGxA5M) and national corruption inherited from the past (http://bit.ly/2dbivRx), which the EU is working with the government of Ukraine to address. Despite those challenges, the Ukrainian economy is expected to grow in the year 2016 (http://bit.ly/2dYeL4j).	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
16.10.2016	RUS	Ukraine is under external control.	http://bit.ly/2eePCoY	Vremya pokazhet (12:39)	Ukraine is a sovereign and independent country, whose sovereignty and independence are respected by most of the free world, but violated by Russia. Democratic elections were held in Ukraine.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist

16.10.2016	RUS	The populations of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus are a single nation.	http://bit.ly/2eePCoY	Vremya pokazhet (19:11)	Russia, Ukraine and Belarus are not a single nation, they are all recognised sovereign countries and have their own language, flag, nationality and history.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
16.10.2016	RUS	The US authorities have eliminated democracy in America, staged a coup in Ukraine and now support Al-Qaeda.	http://bit.ly/2eeU2My	Vremya pokazhet (08:34)	No evidence for the claim about "eliminating democracy". // The spontaneous onset of the Euromaidan protests was a reaction of large parts of the Ukrainian population to the Yanukovich government's sudden departure from the Association Agreement with the European Union in November 2013. http://bit.ly/1Tl9X7W // The US has been leading a war on terror since 9/11 2001, in which Al-Qaeda has been one of the prime targets. http://bit.ly/2dUdUkI	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
16.10.2016	RUS	Information warfare is a major component of the struggle between the US and Russia, the US has already written the scripts, regardless of what really happens in Georgia, Ukraine, Syria. Hollywood is going to make movies about the defeat of the Russians in order to ensure the victory of America.	http://bit.ly/2e96ADB	Vremya pokazhet (1:27:48)	It is Russia, not the US, which by its own admission engages in information warfare and devotes huge resources to it: http://eepurl.com/ciMedb	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
16.10.2016	RUS	Ukraine as a country can exist only through and with the help of Russophobia.	http://bit.ly/2ellp3i	Vremya pokazhet (1:06:55)	Ukraine is a functioning state. The actions of Russia such as the illegal annexation of Crimea and the backing of the separatists and their self-proclaimed authorities in eastern Ukraine are perceived as unfriendly steps/aggression by the majority of Ukrainian society.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
16.10.2016	RUS	The war in Syria has been provoked by the West and its allies, who are trying to prevent Russia and Iran from building a gas pipeline through Syria to Europe.	http://bit.ly/2dgBYjO	Vremya pokazhet (41:08)	Conspiracy theory, no evidence given. Syria's bloody internal conflict began with pro-democracy protests in March 2011 before escalating into a full-scale civil war (http://bbc.in/1ICPcBw).	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
16.10.2016	RUS	The West has unleashed a war in Syria to send the Daesh fighters to conquer Russia.	http://bit.ly/2dgBYjO	Vremya pokazhet (49:21)	Conspiracy theory, no evidence given. Syria's bloody internal conflict began with pro-democracy protests in March 2011 before escalating into a full-scale civil war (http://bbc.in/1ICPcBw).	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
16.10.2016	RUS	The West accuses Russia of war crimes in Syria to divert attention from the US inability to cope with Daesh.	http://bit.ly/2eGEZKy	Odnako, Pervyi kanal	The accusations against Russia of war crimes emerged because of the mass deaths of civilians as a result of the intensive bombing of Aleppo by Russian (and Syrian) air forces. http://bit.ly/2d1wZIU	Pavel Spirin, former journalist

16.10.2016	RUS	The West is actively preparing its population for war with Russia.	http://bit.ly/2dUiFum	Vremya pokazhet (31: 47)	Conspiracy theory, no evidence given. Neither the US nor other NATO members have intentions to attack Russia. As stated by NATO Heads of State and Government at the Warsaw Summit in July 2016, "The Alliance does not seek confrontation and poses no threat to Russia. But we cannot and will not compromise on the principles on which our Alliance and security in Europe and North America rest." (http://bit.ly/29Clz6e).	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
16.10.2016	CZE	Hillary Clinton suggested that it is necessary to "bring pressure on Saudi Arabia and Qatar to secretly support ISIS and other radical Sunni groups in the region".	http://bit.ly/2dUhH1q	Parlamentni Listy	Flawed translation. In the original article, Clinton states the opposite: "we need to use our diplomatic and more traditional intelligence assets to bring pressure on the governments of Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which are providing clandestine financial and logistic support to ISIL [Isis] and other radical Sunni groups in the region." http://ind.pn/2dG2JNr	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/

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.