

## MEDIA REPORT 8

### Summary

The AP News article, “Musk’s X is the biggest purveyor of disinformation, EU official says” written by Kelvin Chan, reports on the European Union official stating that the social network site X(formerly known as Twitter), is the biggest source of fake news and disinformation and is urging Eldon Musk to comply with bloc’s laws to combat the spread of disinformation. With the upcoming elections, Big tech companies such as Google, TikTok, Microsoft, and Meta will have to tackle disinformation mostly coming from Russia. European Commission Vice President Vera Jourova stated that Russia is using social media to wage a war on ideas against democracy. Russia’s disinformation operation is a multimillion-euro weapon of mass manipulation aimed both internally at the Russians as well as at Europeans and the rest of the world. Jourova stated that there was an update on the 27-nation EU’s 2022 Code of Practice on Disinformation and that Google, TikTok, Microsoft, and Facebook and Instagram parent Meta signed up to the voluntary code last year, but Twitter dropped out after Musk bought the platform. Jourova stated that X is the platform with the largest ratio of mis- or disinformation posts and an email sent to the company’s press team seeking comment resulted in an automatically generated reply.

The European Commission released a study of six online platforms in Poland, Slovakia, and Pain and found that Twitter has the highest prevalence of disinformation and the biggest ratio of disinformation actors. Jorova warned Eldon Musk that just because his company dropped the code, X still needed to fight disinformation. The code has been incorporated into a strict new set of mandatory European regulations known as the Digital Services Act which subjects the highest social media platforms(including X) to the highest level of scrutiny. Under the code, online platforms agree to commit to measures aimed at reducing disinformation and have to file reports regularly.

## Personal Opinion

Overall, I strongly agree with the fact that the big social media platforms are regulated by the bloc's laws to combat disinformation and how the EU is urging X to comply as well.

Disinformation is intentionally misleading or false information that can hurt a country's democracy when spread because it can erode trust. Since X is the platform with the largest amount of disinformation, I believe it is needed for the EU to regulate it because it can affect the thought process of its users and it will stop other countries from influencing elections. Without this regulation, X will continue to have more disinformation, and that can lead to a loss of trust in democracy in a country.

## Citation

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<https://apnews.com/article/disinformation-musk-x-twitter-european-union-9f7823726f812bb357ee4225b884354f>