



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

**Brussels, 30 April 2019**

**DOCUMENT PARTIALLY  
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC  
(12.08.2020)**

**WK 5524/2019 INIT**

**LIMITE**

**API**

**INF**

**WORKING PAPER**

*This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.*

**MEETING DOCUMENT**

---

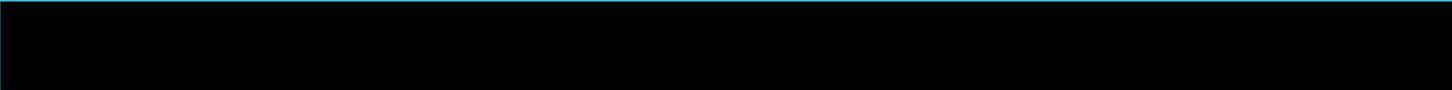
From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Presentation by the European Parliament: Fighting disinformation before the European Parliament elections

---

Delegations will find attached copy of the European Parliament's presentation concerning point 2.b of the agenda of the WPI meeting of 30 April 2019.

# Misinformation & Disinformation

**What can and does the European Parliament do?**



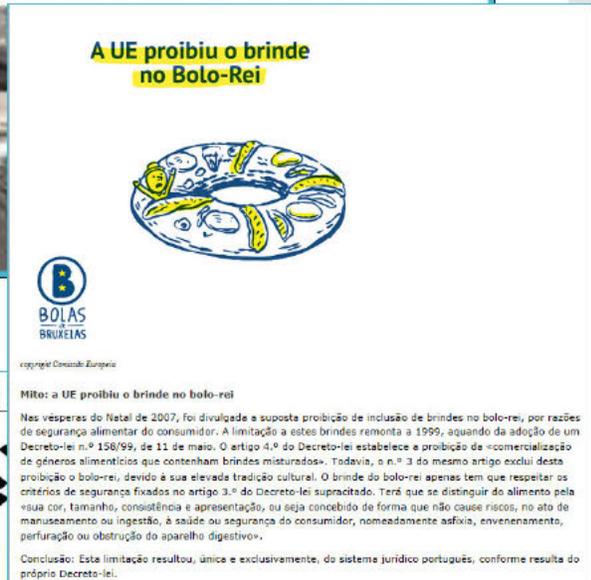
Working Party on Information

April 2019

False or twisted information created or pushed with the intention to harm or earn easy money



"Sweden bans Christmas lights to please Muslims", or "Sweden wants to leave the EU." Check out what did not happen last night in #Sweden 🇸🇪

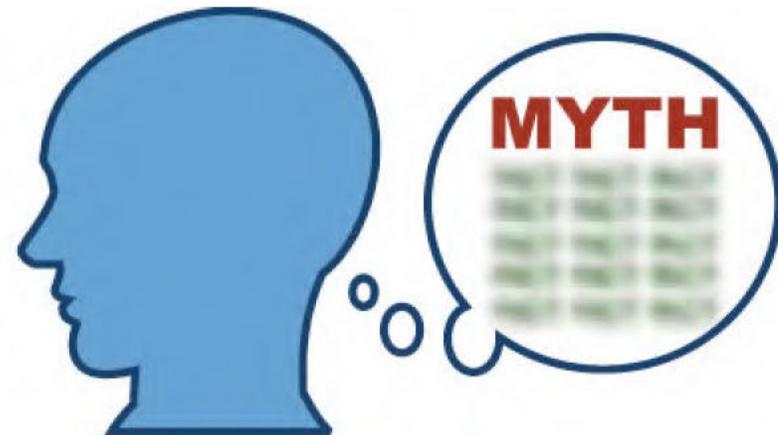
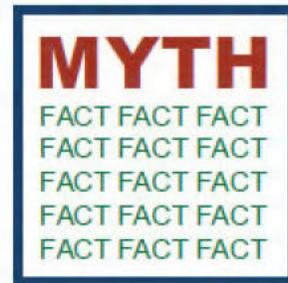


# Narratives feeding into false or twisted information

- EU is too big a bureaucracy
- It costs way too much money
- The rules it sets are a nuisance

## We can help with facts but debunking has its limits

- Debunking can spread the myth to new audiences
- A simple myth is more attractive than a complicated correction
- Backfire effect – corrections can strengthen already fixed views
- Most effective: warn and inform people beforehand
- Media literacy training is key to strengthen civic resilience



## What the EP does: Prevention

- Access to credible facts: FAQs, studies, press releases
- Positive narratives (What EU does for you, seminars, groups, video ...)
- Awareness-raising (workshops, video, face-to-face, online)
- Good relations with journalists and fact-checkers
- Prepare when bad stories are expected

# What the EP does: Monitoring and reaction

- Special unit since 2018
- Information source – journalists, EPLOs
- Intensified work inside EP (taskforce) and with other EU institutions
- New system for early detection (EPLOs)
- Rebuttals

## What the EP does: Resolutions

- *“EU strategic communication to counteract anti-EU propaganda by third parties”* (November 2016)  
[2016/2030\(INI\)](#)
- *“The use of Facebook users’ data by Cambridge Analytica and the impact on data protection”* (October 2018)  
[2018/2855\(RSP\)](#)
- *“State of EU-Russia political relations”* (March 2019)  
[2018/2158\(INI\)](#)
- *“Taking stock of the follow-up taken by the EEAS two years after the EP report on EU strategic communication to counteract propaganda against it by third parties”* (March 2019)  
[2018/2115\(INI\)](#)

# What the EP does: Cooperation

- Tripartite platform (CIRCABC)
- RAS

