



# Defending Democracy Against Disinformation

Session III: “Legislating to Address Digital Disinformation”  
Taipei, 21 October 2019

# Dealing with the Disinformation



# Disinformation a new problem?





If you want to know the future,  
look at the past.

Albert Einstein

**What lessons from the past?**

# Feeling Free in Liberal Society

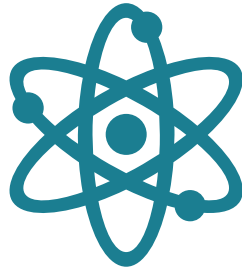
## Safeguarding and protecting individual integrity and safety

- Protecting victims from abuse
- Ensuring public safety
- Defending peace, freedom and democracy



**SECURITY**

**FREEDOM**



**Guaranteeing freedom of expression and speech, access to information**

- Different viewpoints
- Competition of ideas
- Stimulating creativity

# International liberal positions 1

1947

Oxford



1. Man is first and foremost a being endowed with the power of independent thought and action, and with the ability to distinguish right from wrong.

3. The State is only the instrument of the community; it should assume no power which conflicts with the fundamental rights of the citizens and with the conditions essential for a responsible and creative life, namely:

.... > Freedom of speech and of the press;

1967

Oxford

5. We believe that these tendencies can only be fought by devoted concentration on the overriding need for freedom in all its aspects, and in particular by :

...b) maintenance of the widest multiplicity of expression and initiative in all matters of education and culture, including mass media of communication;

# International liberal positions 2

1981

Rome



Modern liberalism is faced with :

c) the need for freedom and pluralism in the media.

Freedom and pluralism in the mass media are essential to a liberal society. There can be no political freedom where the media are in the hands of a monopoly or quasi- monopoly, private or public. Liberals see, with growing concern, the powerful attacks against press freedom from within and from outside liberal societies, the main challenges being:

- a) the increasing concentration of press-ownership within industrialised democracies;
  - b) new technology, making transnational communication easier, but also providing dangerous instruments for the manipulation of public opinion and for the weakening of indigenous cultures;
  - c) the attacks of governments, group interests and international organisations against a pluralist press independent of government control and censorship.
- Liberals recognise that to meet these challenges state subsidies under public supervision may sometimes be necessary to ensure the continuation of pluralism in the media. They insist that such subsidies and supervision should be strictly controlled in their turn, so as not to be self-defeating.**

# International liberal positions 2

1997

Oxford



Liberal democracy has at last become widely accepted as the global model for political organisation. But only a minority of states are yet properly democratic. Authoritarian regimes, military elites usurping power, abuse of state powers for partisan purposes, criminal elements gaining influence over government, power-seekers exploiting popular hopes and fears, still block the path to liberty. We call on all governments and peoples:

... \* to promote media free from undue control or interference by government or dominant companies;

# International liberal positions 2

2017

Andorra

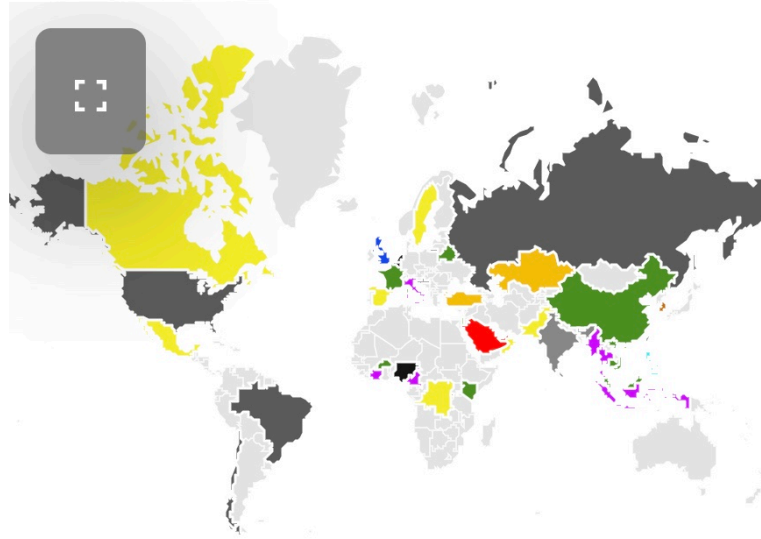


## Defend freedom of informatio

Freedom of expression is critical for a liberal democracy. We support unencumbered access to, and circulation of, information for all citizens, and freedom of discourse unhindered by the state and protected by a framework of rules that promote freedom. With the exponential increase in information-gathering and storage made possible with new technologies, we are determined to ensure that a rules-based framework guarantees the integrity of individual private data, online privacy and freedom from surveillance, and the right to redress where citizens are harmed by breaches of privacy or targeted misinformation, regardless of the medium of communication. In order to provide the media and general public with the ability to control public authorities, it is crucial to ensure access to information regarding the affairs of public and democratic institutions at all levels. Liberals believe that such freedoms and protections for individuals are vital underpinnings for a free society built on freedom of opinion and freedom of assembly.

# Action against online misinformation

DEMOCRACIES

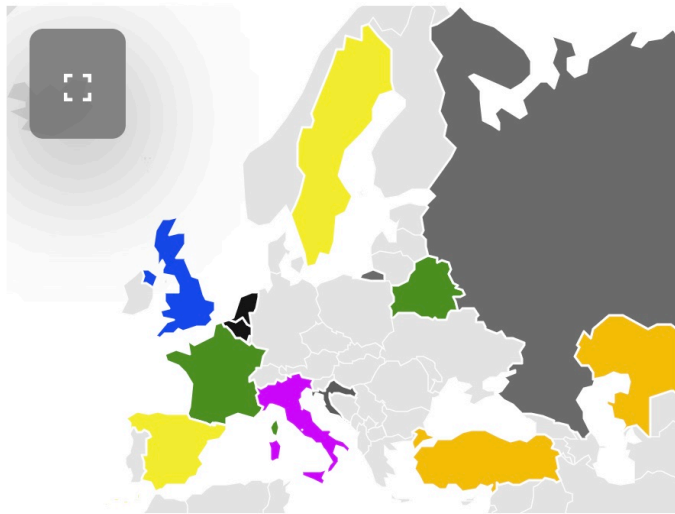


AUTOCRACIES



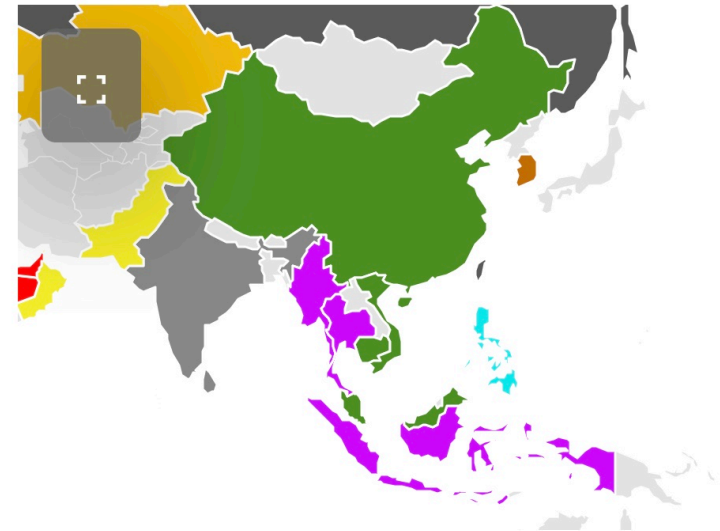
# Action against online misinformation

## EUROPE



- Law ● Media literacy ● Bill
- Internet shutdowns
- Law enforcement ● Failed legislation
- Proposal ● Task force ● Report
- Investigation ● Threats
- Court ruling

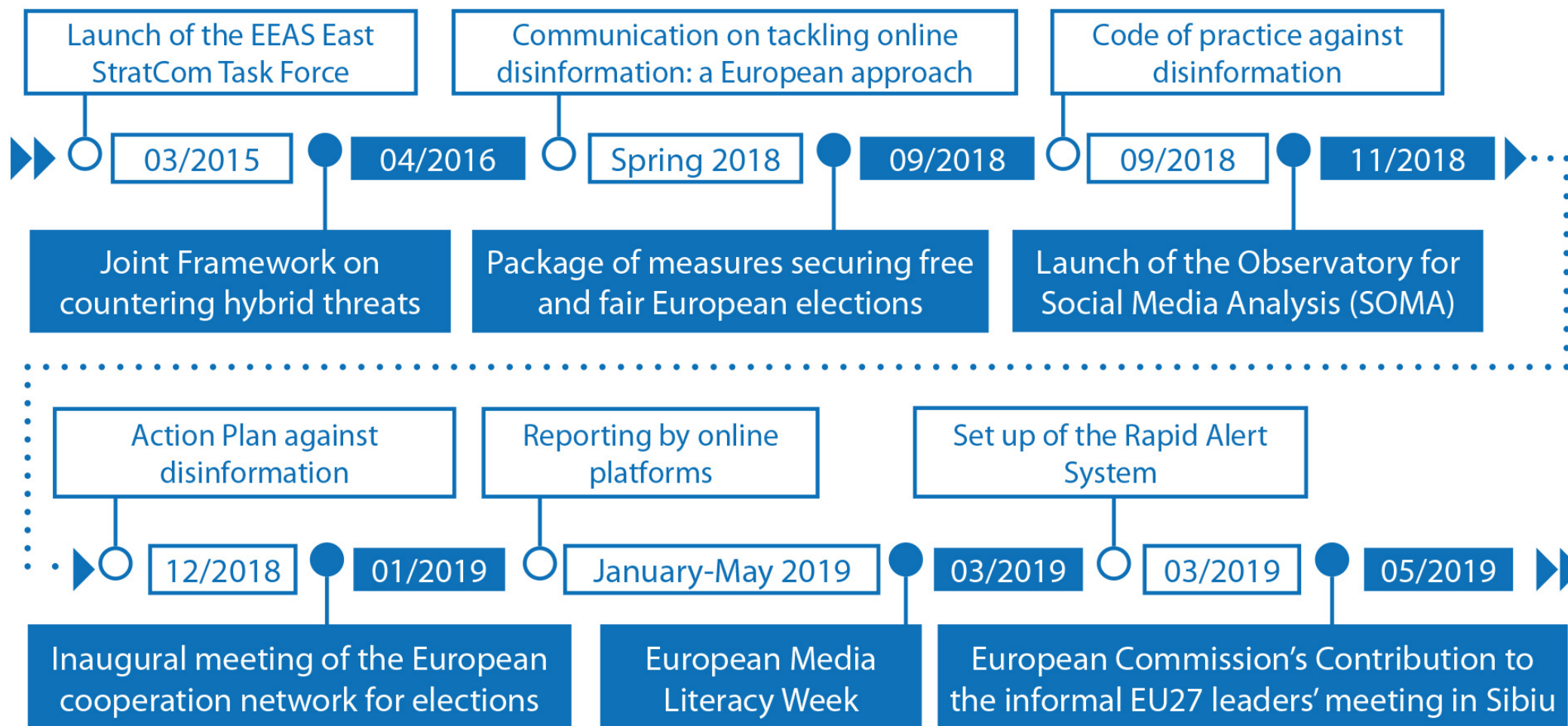
## S.E. ASIA



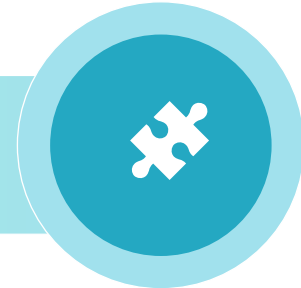
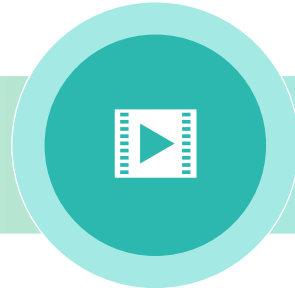
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# EU Tackling Online Disinformation

## OVERVIEW OF EU JOINT AND COORDINATED ACTION AGAINST DISINFORMATION



# EU Tackling Online Disinformation



## WHERE'S IT FROM?



### A trusted source is your safest option.

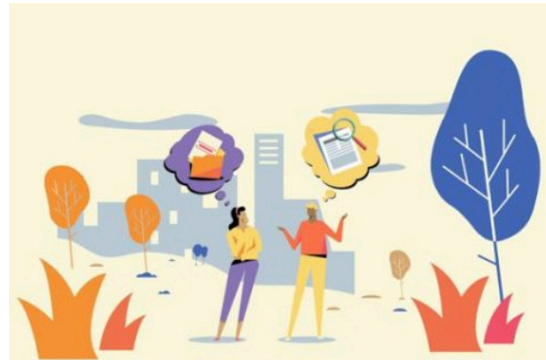
If you don't know the source, check out the about page or ask yourself why they're sharing the story.

## WHAT'S MISSING?



### Get the whole story not just a headline.

One click can help you spot false news. Read the whole story and watch out for images, numbers, and quotes that don't have sources or that might have been taken out of context.



### Three questions to help stamp out false news

Stop, think, and check...

- ☒ Where's it from?
- ☒ What's missing?
- ☒ How do you feel?

A photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, viewed through the opening of a dark cave. The cave's interior is dark and rocky, with the city lights and buildings visible through the bright opening. The text "Thank You" and "...it is all about how much we cooperate..." is overlaid on the image.

# Thank You

...it is all about how much we cooperate...