



Grupo de la Alianza Progresista de
Socialistas & Demócratas
en el Parlamento Europeo

Delegación Española

**The impact of online disinformation over electoral campaigns:
Risks for democracy and toolkit to asses them**

SEMINAR

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - BRUSSELS, 4 MARCH 2019

ROOM ASP 3H-1

17:00-19:30

Hosted by:

Ramón Jáuregui Atondo, Spanish Socialist Delegation at the European Parliament

SHORT PRESENTATION

In the last few years, we have witnessed a gradual deterioration of public trust in the political parties and democratic institutions, together with the growth of extremist and populist movements and parties. This process takes place in a context marked by an extreme connectivity, where the Internet works as a massive global loudspeaker amplifying social phenomena. Therefore, distress grows and spreads now in our societies easier, wider and faster than ever.

From a security point of view, our electoral processes face three types of cyber-threats, whose authors might be sovereign States, hackers, cyber activists or lobbies:

1. Manipulation of votes (interferences in the vote counting systems, cyber-attacks, data theft or leaks, etc.)
2. Manipulation of voters (disinformation and fake news, targeted manipulation campaigns with the use of social networks and/or big data).
3. Destabilization and havoc dissemination campaigns (mechanisms are similar to point 2).

The Internet and social networks like Twitter, Facebook y WhatsApp have become optimal channels for spreading antidemocratic and antieuropean speeches, often with the help of fake news and disinformation. For this reason, we have to keep a close look on the digital arena in order to tackle the threats against democracy and face those groups and organizations promoting chaos, seeding distrust and hate or simply trying to get support for extremist and populist political options.

The purpose of this seminar is to shed some light on these phenomena with the aid of experts from the technological, institutional and academic spheres, providing the public with a “toolkit against disinformation” to be used during 2019 election to the European Parliament.

(EN-ES Interpretation)

DRAFT PROGRAM

Monday, March 4

17:00 horas Introductory remarks by Ramón Jáuregui

Disinformation and elections. Which are the risks for democracy?

17:10 Jaume Duch - Director General for Communication and Spokesperson of the European Parliament

17:30 Ulrik Trolle Smed - Member of Cabinet to Commissioner for the Security Union
Julian King at European Commission

Which are the toolkits and strategies to assess disinformation in electoral campaigns?

17:50 Despina Spanou - Director for Digital Society, Trust and Cybersecurity. European Commission

18:10 Līga Raita Rozentale - Director of EU Governmental Affairs for Cybersecurity Policy, Corporate, Legal & External Affairs Department, Microsoft Europe

18:30 Cristina Frutos Head of European Operations - Elections at Minsait - INDRA

Disinformation in XXI century societies. A passing trend or a lasting challenge?

18:50 Miguel Ángel Simón Gómez. Professor at the Complutense University of Madrid.

Debate

BIOS

Jaume Duch Director General for Communication and Spokesperson of the European Parliament. He has a longstanding experience in the field of communication. He is the author of various publications, articles and communications on issues related to the European Union, the role of the European Parliament and communication policies.

Despina Spanou - Director for Digital Society, Trust and Cybersecurity. European Commission at the Directorate-General Communications Network, Content and Technology. In this capacity she is responsible for cybersecurity policy and law and digital privacy, among others issues.

Ulrik Trolle Smed - Member of Cabinet to Commissioner for the Security Union Julian King at European Commission. He focuses on strategic digital affairs and security, including disinformation, strategic autonomy, digital economy and society, digital single market and competition.

Līga Raita Rozentale Director of EU Governmental Affairs for Cybersecurity Policy, Corporate, Legal & External Affairs Department, Microsoft Europe. Formerly, she worked at the European Council and NATO. She is an expert in data protection and cybersecurity

Cristina Frutos is Head of European Operations - Elections at Minsait, a branch of the Spanish technology and consulting company INDRA. Expert in the application of technology to electoral processes, she has directed several projects focused on voting and vote counting systems in European countries such as Great Britain, Norway, Spain or France.

Miguel Ángel Simón Gómez Professor at Political Science Faculty, Complutense University of Madrid. Formerly, he worked as Operations Manager of Sigma 2 Public Survey Consultants and as a speechwriter for a series of Spanish political personalities. He is an expert on political communication, public survey analysis and far-right extremism.