



European Digital Media Observatory

EDMO Taskforce on
2024 European Elections

WEEKLY INSIGHTS AND EARLY WARNINGS

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DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES YOU MAY COME ACROSS

CLIMATE CHANGE

Renewable energies are hazardous: Wind turbines are depicted as dangerous and polluting, while solar farms are said to replace cultivable lands. These false stories are examples of the “New Denial”, a new form of climate denialism that focuses on discrediting the responses to the crisis rather than its existence. Similar narratives have been detected in many EU countries and might impact the upcoming EU elections.

LGBTQ+

Exploitation of LGBTQ+ stereotypes against politicians or parties: Leveraging homophobia and negative clichés about LGBTQ+ issues, circulating false news tries to associate certain politicians with the LGBTQ+ community. Other false stories, in line with a recurring disinformation narrative that falsely links LGBTQ+ individuals to sexual abuse of children, claim that political parties or international organizations ask for the legalisation of pedophilia or its teaching in schools.

LGBTQ+ values are imposed by the elite on EU citizens: In Greece, false claims surfaced alleging that the government mandated every hotel in the country to display a rainbow flag, while in Bulgaria, misinformation spread suggesting that the Council of Europe advocated for children to undergo sex changes.



EARLY WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT?

① Following the [approval](#) from the US Senate of a new military aid package to Ukraine, disinformation narratives about the escalation of the conflict and/or the direct involvement of Western troops on the ground could well gain traction. Their circulation and impact could potentially increase due to politicians' fearmongering [statements](#).

→ Read for example [Reuters](#) reporting on the news.

② As the European Parliament approved [new EU fiscal rules](#) on 23 April 2024, it is possible that disinformation narratives exaggerating its consequences in different directions may appear in the debates at a national level. Especially in countries with high public debt, narratives saying that austerity is back or that the EU provokes the impoverishment of its citizens to facilitate their oppression by a financial elite might gain traction. Instead, in countries with more sustainable economies, disinformation narratives could claim that the EU favors members with higher debt, is too accommodating with them, and thus penalises nations with healthier fiscal balances.

→ Read the [press release](#) of the European Parliament.

METHODOLOGY

The information contained in this brief is based on the [EDMO EU Elections Disinfo Bulletin](#), the [EDMO monthly fact-checking briefs](#) and [investigations](#), and the EFCSN fact-checking database focused on the 2024 European Elections, [Elections24Check](#).

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