



European Digital Media Observatory

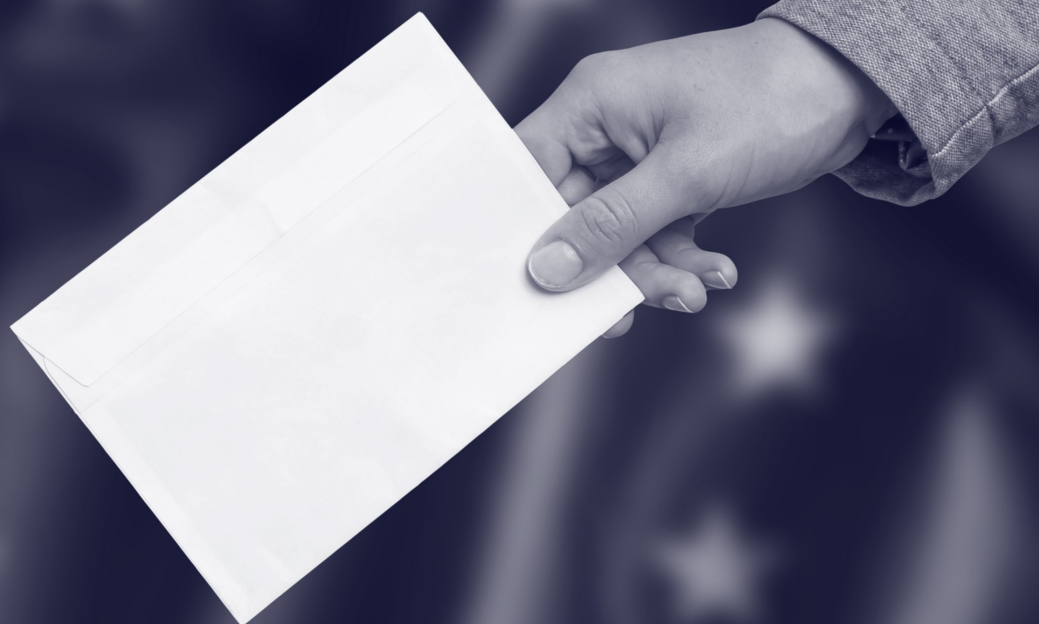
EDMO Taskforce on
2024 European Elections

WEEKLY INSIGHTS AND EARLY WARNINGS

Edition n°1

Published on Friday, 12 April 2024

[Visit edmo.eu](https://edmo.eu)



DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES YOU MAY COME ACROSS

CLIMATE CHANGE

Denial and conspiracy theories: Example of human activity having little, or perhaps even zero, impact on global warming (see [here](#)).

Measures to counter climate crisis are useless and/or anti-democratic (“New Denial”): Example of a Bavarian Green Party politician doing a Nazi salute with the symbols of her political party on another fake cover of *Der Spiegel*, titled “The Green Empire, the power takeover” (see [here](#)).

Hypocrisy of ecologists: Example of the “Do as I say, not as I do” concept, with activists being the ones littering (see [here](#)).

ESCALATION OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

The EU is actively involved on the ground and/or plans to do so soon: Examples of a tank with the EU flag spotted driving through Russian territory (see [here](#)), of Portugal calling up its reservists to fight in Ukraine with NATO (see [here](#)) and of French President Macron wanting to recruit 200,000 soldiers for the war in Ukraine (see [here](#)).

Context: Those narratives are [recurrent](#) and could gain traction again following the [recent speech of Josep Borrell](#) at Forum Europa on 9 April 2024, in which he mentioned that “the possibility of a high-intensity conventional war in Europe is no longer fantasy”, given that “the war against Ukraine is a threat to the Union as a whole.” Variations of this narrative could circulate again soon using Russian officials as sources (see [here](#)).

ISLAMISATION OF THE EU

Ramadan is an opportunity to impose Muslim practices in Europe: For example, non-Muslims students are forced to fast in school and Muslims ones are exempted from mandatory school attendance during the whole of Ramadan (see [here](#)). Another example is on praying Muslims, being depicted as illegal immigrants flooding public spaces (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

Context: Those narratives are linked to the circulating disinformation targeting migrants as well, as the [EDMO monthly fact-checking briefs](#) have already reported.



EARLY WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT?

① The European Parliament approved the new [Migration and Asylum Pact](#) on 10 April 2024. This is most likely to spark further disinformation on EU migration policies and migrants, such as: the EU is provoking an ethnic substitution by migrant invaders, the Islamisation of the EU will increase, Member States are losing sovereignty, and they will be forced to relocate migrants.

→ *Read the press release from the European Parliament [here](#).*

② As the European Parliament has voted in favor of including access to a safe and legal abortion in the [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) on 11 April 2024, there is a risk that disinformation will grow, with the narrative that the EU will impose abortion as a fundamental right in all Member States.

→ *Read the press release from the European Parliament [here](#).*

③ On 10 April 2024, the [European Union Court of Justice overturned some of the sanctions](#) imposed on Russian billionaires Mikhail Fridman and Petr Aven, given the lack of evidence of their support to the Kremlin and its war against Ukraine. With this isolated ruling as an example, disinformation labeling the whole EU sanctions on Russia as illegal might surface, narrating that even the EU legal apparatus disavows them.

→ *Read Politico reporting the news [here](#).*

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](#).

Reference period: April 2024.

Responsible EDMO organisation:
EDMO Taskforce On 2024 European Elections

Main editor of this report:
Louise Carnapete-Rinieri, Florence School of
Transnational Governance.

Contributors:
Tommaso Canetta, PagellaPolitica/Facta.news
Enzo Panizio, PagellaPolitica/Facta.news
Stamos Archontis, FactReview

Graphic designer:
Maria Laura Minoli, Florence School of Transnational
Governance.

For further information: edmo.tfeu2024@eui.eu



EDMO has received funding
from the European Union
under Contract number: “LC-01935415 ”