



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

Classic Denialism: climate change is one of the topics most targeted by disinformation during the EU election campaign. False stories minimise or even deny the impact of human activity on climate change, while other baseless claims allege that the climate crisis does not even exist.

New Denial: examples of this new form of climate denialism keep on circulating, with renewable energies and electric vehicles as targets. False stories are also circulating targeting the European Commission, which allegedly announced restrictions on showers and the use of water for EU citizens.

Conspiracy theories: alongside the usual false news circulating on chemtrails, climate change is staged, and natural disasters are said to be manmade in order to impose restrictions on freedom of movement, like lockdowns.

XENOPHOBIA AND IMMIGRATION

Demonization of migrants: false news portraying migrants as violent criminals keep on appearing, sometimes calling for mass deportations of migrants, described as unable to adapt to the European lifestyle.

EU political will for uncontrolled immigration: misleading content indicates that the European institutions are deliberately provoking uncontrolled immigration flows as EU borders are allegedly not controlled. Migrants are also said to receive special benefits at the expense of EU citizens. This type of false news can further trigger anti-immigration sentiment, for example when exaggerating the scale of rallies against migrants, and impact the results of EU elections.



EARLY WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT?

1. Disinformation about Donald Trump conviction:

Considering the political closeness and affinity of different EU political parties with Donald Trump, the news that the former US president has been found guilty in a hush money trial is likely to trigger disinformation in the EU. It is possible that disinformation will exploit the events in the US to heat national controversies (eg. about the independence of the judiciary, the rule of law and so on) or to convey conspiracy theories (eg. about deep state plots, democracy's subversion and so on).

2. Disinformation about the EU electoral process: As the **European elections are taking place next week** from 6 to 9 June, it is likely that disinformation targeting the elections process or integrity might intensify, calling the elections rigged or unfair as already happened in Germany, where several false claims questioned the fairness of voting procedures in recent weeks.



EARLY WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT?

3. Escalation of the conflict in Ukraine: According to US officials, President Joe Biden has authorized the use of US arms in limited strikes on Russian territory, in connection with the recent discussions about allowing Ukraine to employ **donated weapons from its allies to reach military targets within Russia's borders**. The decision might trigger further disinformation on the escalation of the conflict and the direct implication of the EU and the West in general, while Russian media and authorities in past weeks threatened that the move could lead to the outbreak of a new world war.

4. Disinformation about LGBTQ+ issues: LGBTQ+ communities could be the target of intensified disinformation during **Pride Month** in June. Polemics based on false news are already circulating, for example regarding the rainbow flag: false content claims that it has supposedly been created to attract children, as the community is often falsely associated with pedophilia. According to disinformation, some EU Member States are also allegedly promoting pedophilia with laxist laws for possession of child pornography.

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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Responsible EDMO organisation:
EDMO Taskforce On 2024 European Elections

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

Contributors:
Enzo Panizio, PagellaPolitica/Facta.news
Stamos Archontis, FactReview
Tommaso Canetta, PagellaPolitica/Facta.news
Shan Mao, Florence School of Transnational
Governance.

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

For further information: edmo.tfeu2024@eui.eu



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