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## MEPs condemn Russia's use of disinformation to justify its war in Ukraine

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- Parliament rejects Russia's historical claims about Ukraine as a means to justify an illegal war
  - Sanctions against Russian media outlets spreading disinformation must be expanded
  - Concern over the decision by some social media companies to relax fact-checking rules
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### **In a resolution adopted on Thursday, MEPs condemn the Russian regime's systematic falsification of historical arguments to justify its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine.**

The text adopted by Parliament rejects historical claims by the Russian regime to undermine Ukraine's history and national identity as futile attempts to justify its ongoing illegal war. It also condemns Russia's failure to establish accountability for Soviet crimes, and for cracking down on attempts to carry out historical research and holding public debates on these issues, saying that such practices have contributed to the Moscow regime's ability to revive imperialist policies and instrumentalise history for its criminal purposes.

### **The EU must step up the fight against Russian disinformation**

Parliament issues a strong call for the EU and its member states to increase and better coordinate their efforts to promptly and rigorously counter Russian disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference. This is essential, they say, to protect the integrity of democratic processes and strengthen the resilience of European societies. MEPs point to the need to actively promote media literacy and support quality media and professional journalism as well as research into new hybrid influence technologies.

The resolution also calls on the EU to expand its sanctions against Russian media outlets conducting disinformation campaigns championing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. It urges EU countries to thoroughly implement these sanctions and to dedicate sufficient resources to effectively addressing this hybrid warfare. MEPs also want the EU to step up its support for exiled independent Russian media to facilitate diverse voices in the Russian-language media.

### **MEPs deeply concerned by some social media companies relaxing fact-checking rules**

Parliament is deeply concerned about the recent announcements by social media companies about a relaxation of their rules on fact-checking and moderation, as this will further enable Russia's disinformation campaign to spread around the world. MEPs want the European Commission and EU member states to strictly enforce the Digital Services Act in response to these announcements by Meta and X, including as an important part of the fight against Russian disinformation.

The resolution was adopted by 480 votes in favour, 58 against with 48 abstentions.

For all the details, the full resolution will be available [here](#). (23.01.2025) If you want to know how each MEP voted, [click here](#).

### **Further information**

[Watch a video recording of the plenary debate \(17.12.2024\)](#)  
[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

### **Contacts**

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