The European Democracy Action Plan

European Economic and Social Committee – 17 March 2020

Europe Citizen Action Service (ECAS)

Our mission is to empower citizens in order to create a more inclusive and stronger European Union.

As a part of coalition of 31 civil society organisations and experts we called a joint statement calling for universal advertising transparency by default.

EU Democracy Focus Area – Three Pillars

- Digital Democracy
- Online Disinformation
- Understanding Populism

30 ecas
European Citizen Action Service
Years of empowering citizens

European Democracy Action Plan (EDAP)

It is designed to empower citizens and build more resilient democracies across the EU

EU And Disinformation: A step Forward

✓ EU Actions towards disinformation gradually growth to address a complicated Issue

✓ EDAP is a step forward

Important to take these two points in consideration for a proportionate judgement

Third point:

- The EDAP action against disinformation needs to be framed together with the Digital Service Act (DSA)

DISINFORMATION

"Probably the most Challenging Aspect"
Renate Nikolay

➢ Three type of actions

➢ Sponsored content in a political context are complementary to the measures that will be proposed under the Digital Services Act.

➢ In 2023, a year ahead of the next European elections, the Commission will review the implementation of the action plan.

➢ Ongoing Process

01
Definitions

02
Capacity building actions

03
Obligations and accountability of online platforms

04
Citizens' empowerment

Misinformation	Disinformation	Information influence operation	Foreign interference in the information space
For each type of these phenomena, and depending on the actor, channel and impact, different policy responses are required.			

02 AREAS OF ACTION

I. Improving EU and Member State capacity to counter disinformation	II. More obligations and accountability for online platforms	III. Empowering citizens to make informed decisions
One new proposal to seek to impose costs on perpetrators	Strengthening the Code of Practice on Disinformation by issuing clear guidance to platforms on how to step up their measures against disinformation, and setting up a robust framework for its monitoring	Strengthening media literacy through a number of mechanisms
CSOs stressed the need to make the threat of targeted sanctions more credible and frequent	It goes together with the DSA	May be more difficult to achieve in practice

Assessment:
A step forward – but we need to keep working all together

What was expected	What it is good	What is missing
It included inputs from a variety of different stakeholders on several points	A positive and necessary step to tackling some key challenges to democracy	It remains broad and It is necessary to monitor how these new initiatives are rolled out and more detail added
Consistent and wide-ranging document than could have been expected earlier in the year	Innovative elements and try to strike a balance that is difficult to achieve on disinformation	Everything still needs to be done