

MEET THE SPEAKERS

Policy Conference, 2 February 2024

From elections to everyday: Strategies against disinformation in the EU

Introductory remarks



Didier Reynders

Didier Reynders is the European Commissioner for Justice. His main duties include ensuring the rule of law is upheld, including with the European Rule of Law Mechanism, leading on consumer empowerment and protection and protecting citizens' rights, contributing to legislation towards a coordinated approach on the human and ethical implications of artificial intelligence, and maximising the potential of new digital technologies to improve the EU's justice systems among many others.

Moderators



Isabelle Kumar

Isabelle Kumar is a former prime-time lead anchor for Euronews-NBC and journalist with more than 20 years of experience, she now moderates and MCs at leading forums and summits around the globe. Her interviews include presidents and prime ministers from Russia, Iran, Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Italy, and Portugal, and the heads of the UN and the European Commission. Before heading to Euronews, Isabelle worked for CNN, APTN and Reuters. Isabelle will moderate the conference's main panel discussion.

Sonia Chabane

Sonia Chabane is a Project Manager at TEPESA, coordinating the RADAR project and Nets4Dem. Additionally, she co-manages the supply of external academic expertise to the European Parliament's Committees and Subcommittees. Sonia is a Fellow of Brown's University Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies. As an independent researcher, she developed expertise on Turkey, the Mashreq, the Maghreb and the Gulf on authoritarianism, humanitarian assistance and development cooperation, surveillance and new technologies, forced migration and human rights mechanisms.



Panellists



Samuel van der Staak

Samuel van der Staak is Director for Europe at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). His work focuses on supporting democratic developments in Europe, with a special emphasis on topics related to political parties, money in politics, and ICT in democracy. Sam has been involved in International IDEA publications on Cybersecurity in elections, Citizen movements, Money in politics, and Political party dialogue. He makes regular media contributions to the state of democracy in Europe.

Kelsey Beltz

Kelsey Beltz currently leads The Good Lobby's work in fostering international partnerships and designing advocacy training programmes, such as The Good Lobby Climate Incubator and The Good Lobby EU Masterclass. Before joining The Good Lobby, she worked at the OECD Development Centre and NYU School of Law, as well as multiple NGOs in Paris, Boston, and New York. She holds a Master of Public Policy from Sciences Po Paris and a Master of Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School at Tufts University.



Toma Šutić

Toma Šutić is a Member of the Cabinet of Dubravka Šuica, the European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, whose office is tasked with addressing the challenges related to demographic changes in Europe and promoting democratic values within the European Union. His recent focus has been on designing and coordinating EU policies aimed at reviving and supporting rural and less populated areas as well as promoting talent attraction and development in those regions in the EU experiencing population decline.



Katariina Mäkilä

Katariina Mäkilä is the Communications Coordinator for Open Doors Finland and one of RADAR's Youth Ambassadors! Her areas of interest include Russian information warfare and strategic narratives and Russian, German and European security policies. Her experience is built on a security and defence politics background, qualitative research methodology, international work environments, and organisational communications.



Concluding remarks

Nad'a Kovalčiková

Dr. Nad'a Kovalčiková is a Senior Analyst in charge of the Transnational Security portfolio at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) and a project Director of the multi-million, EU-funded initiative "Countering Foreign Interference (CFI). A project to strengthen EU CSDP capacities against foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI)". She is also a member of the Advisory Board for the RADAR project; a mentor within the innovative network of Harvard Women in Defense, Diplomacy, and Development; an expert collaborator for Minsait's Ideas for Democracy; and a 2019 awardee and currently also a member of the Steering Committee of Women In International Security.

