

Diputada al Parlamento Europeo

European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz 60  
B-1047 Brussels

European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 14 January 2025

**To the kind attention of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,  
Executive Vice-President Kaja Kallas**

Subject: Addressing foreign interference in electoral processes through digital platforms and  
the need for a comprehensive EU foreign policy strategy

Dear High Representative/ Vice-President Ms. Kaja Kallas,

We undersigned, Members of the European Parliament, are writing to express our deep concern over recent developments involving digital platforms influencing electoral processes both within and beyond the European Union, and to highlight the need for the EU to enhance its foreign policy toolbox to address this emerging threat.

Elon Musk, through his control of X (formerly Twitter), has taken actions that could significantly undermine democratic integrity. In Germany, Musk's platform provided a prominent forum for Alice Weidel, leader of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, in ways that critics argue could sway public opinion ahead of critical elections. Similarly, in the UK, Musk publicly supported Tommy Robinson, a far-right provocateur convicted of multiple charges of violence and fraud, amplifying his visibility and influence. These actions have provoked public outrage and raised concerns about the role of social media in interfering electoral outcomes, especially alarming after the cancellation of the presidential elections in Romania by its constitutional court following allegations of Russian foreign interference. The European Commission is already investigating X under the Digital Services Act (DSA) framework, aiming to ensure compliance with EU rules on disinformation and harmful content. However, this issue also requires a response within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

The Strategic Compass recognizes foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) as an escalating threat to global security and stability, understanding it as deliberate and coordinated actions, by state or non-state actors, aimed at undermining values, political processes, and institutions. While interference has long been a tool in geopolitical strategies, modern technologies, the internet and online platforms have amplified its scale, complexity, and impact, posing risks even to robust democracies.

Despite recent efforts, the EU's current foreign policy tools to counter FIMI have proven insufficient in addressing the scope and complexity of this threat. While initiatives like the Rapid Alert System (RAS) and the enhancement of the FIMI Toolbox represent steps forward, these measures have not fully curtailed the growing influence of foreign interference. Global cooperation, including the EU's partnerships with NATO, the US through the TTC, and the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism, remains limited in its effectiveness.

In this context, we urge you to please consider the development of a comprehensive strategy that could encompass:

1. New instruments and sanctions: expanding the EU's foreign policy and sanctions framework to address foreign interference in electoral processes, with updated tools to counter the emerging threats posed by online platforms like X and the actions of figures such as Elon Musk.
2. Global alliances and diplomacy: strengthening global cooperation to combat interference in democratic processes by working with third countries and international and regional organizations and actors. The EU should lead in forming an international coalition committed to safeguarding electoral integrity and holding platforms accountable for their role in spreading harmful content. The cooperation framework could include coordinated action plans, sharing best practices, and advocating for international norms on responsible behaviour in the digital space.

Your leadership in advancing these initiatives will be critical to integrating digital resilience into EU foreign policy, ensuring that the Union can protect its democratic processes while reinforcing its role as a global champion of democracy and human rights.

We look forward to your response and stand ready to collaborate on advancing these objectives.

Best regards,

Hana Jalloul Muro,

AFET First Vice-Chair  
Member of the European Parliament (S&D)



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