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European Parliament  
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*Dear Colleagues,*

I would hereby like to thank you for your email dated 22 November, whereby you express your concerns as regards Russian interference in European processes and in particular your concerns over the regional election which will take place in Catalonia on 21 December.

Improving the EU's capacity to forecast, address and respond to disinformation activities by external actors is an issue which I take seriously; hence my establishment of the East Stratcom Task Force in the European External Action Service in 2015. The Task Force has doubled in size since its inception thanks to our joint efforts with Member States. As the Task Force addresses disinformation, it has uncovered well over 3,500 examples of disinformation activities in eighteen languages over the past two years, much of it targeting, denigrating, and misrepresenting European values, policies, people, and democratic processes. This work in the communication sphere has been complemented by that of the EU hybrid fusion cell, established in the EU Intelligence Centre to monitor hybrid threats.

The recently adopted EU budget for 2018 foresees additional funds allocated to strategic communication activities, including a preparatory action of €1.1 million, which is specifically aimed at actions that would test how to counter disinformation more systematically, effectively, and efficiently. This will include new monitoring tools, data based analysis, training, and translations of outcome. I am pleased that, by adopting these amendments, Member States and the European Parliament responded positively to the call had I made to ensure that strategic communication is funded in order to move forward with our goals and be able to face current challenges.

Assessing properly the extent of disinformation activities in Member States is primarily Member States' responsibility. What the Task Force can do is contribute to raising awareness and rendering the outcome of its work widely available. All examples of disinformation, including those related to Catalonia, are made publicly available on the fully searchable database of the Task Force's website: <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/>.

Moreover, it would be essential to highlight the crucial role played by positive narratives as regards EU policies in countering disinformation, and I would like to stress the valuable contribution made by the Task Force in this respect.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Federica Mogherini', written in a cursive style.

Federica Mogherini