

NEWSLETTER – 29 September 2022

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

Dear readers,

It has already been a busy month after a much needed summer break.



The ING2 Special Committee has concluded two important missions, to Helsinki to visit the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats, and last week to Australia, in order to learn from our like-minded partners how to counter malign foreign interference.

In the coming week, we will further investigate the ways malign foreign actors attempt to interfere in our democracies. After having had an interesting session with the AFET Committee on Russia's and China's influence across the world, we will dive deeper in the different tactics and techniques used by foreign actors and their domestic proxies in spreading disinformation narratives. This will be done in a series of hearings dedicated to different prominent cases of foreign interference.

The upcoming session focuses on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and how the Kremlin spreads disinformation narratives in Europe. We have invited several experts, including 2021 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dmitry MURATOV, that will brief us on the latest situation and help us understand their impact on our own democratic processes.

After the hearing, we have the honour to welcome Audrey TANG, the Minister of Digital Affairs for Taiwan to our committee. After having met with Audrey TANG in Taiwan during the INGE mission in November 2021, I look forward to welcome her now to the ING2 Committee. As I have told many times, we have a lot to learn from Taiwan and especially Audrey TANG.

Raphaël GLUCKSMANN

ON THE AGENDA

29 September

Hearing on "Russian disinformation and propaganda regarding Ukraine in the light of its war of aggression and its impact on democratic processes in the European Union" - 09:00-11:30 (Meeting via room: Spinelli 1G-3)

In association with the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE) and the Delegation to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (D-RU)

During this session, ING2 Members will discuss the tactics and techniques used by the Kremlin in spreading disinformation and propaganda around Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. ING2 Members will be joined by Members of the AFET and SEDE committees, and the D-RU.

Mr Dmitry MURATOV is a Russian journalist and co-founder of the newspaper Novaya Gazeta, which soon became a leading advocate for democracy and freedom of expression in Russia. Mr MURATOV has been editor-in-chief for most years since 1995. In 2021, he was awarded (with Philippine journalist Maria Ressa) the Nobel Prize for Peace, cited for his "efforts to safeguard freedom of expression."

Under Mr MURATOV's leadership, Novaya Gazeta has criticised the Russian authorities for corruption, electoral fraud and human rights violations. Six of the newspaper's journalists have been murdered because they wrote critical articles on Russian military operations in Chechnya and the Caucasus. The best known of them is Anna Politkovskaya.

Ms Olga RUDENKO is a Ukrainian journalist and the chief editor of the Kyiv Independent, an award-winning media start-up launched in November 2021 by the former editorial team of the Kyiv Post. Ms RUDENKO is the former deputy chief editor of the Kyiv Post. She has written for global publications, and was a fellow at the Chicago Booth School of Business in 2021. In May 2022, Time Magazine

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named her as one of its Next Generation Leaders and featured her on the cover of its May double issue.

Mr Michael SHELDON is a researcher for Bellingcat with a focus on Russia and Ukraine. He has a background in open source research and verification on the conflict in the Donbas. Prior to joining Bellingcat, Mr SHELDON worked as a research associate for Eurasia at the DFRLab, a center at the Atlantic Council, which focuses on countering online disinformation. He headed research on the Lab's Minsk Monitor line of reporting.

Mr Ross BURLEY is Co-Founder and Executive of the Centre for Information Resilience, an independent non-profit that counters disinformation, exposes human rights abuses and combats online behaviour harmful to women and minorities. Mr BURLEY has over 18 years' experience in national security-focused strategic communications and international relations. He served in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London, Washington D.C. and Tel Aviv. Mr BURLEY also worked for several years in the private sector for leading British strategic communications firms. From 2017 to 2020, he designed, implemented, and led several of the UK Government's counter disinformation programmes, including the Open Information Partnership.

Exchange of views with Audrey Tang, Minister of Digital Affairs for Taiwan - 11:30-12:30 (Meeting via room: Spinelli 1G-3)

In association with the Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China (D-CN)

Audrey TANG is Taiwan's digital minister in charge of moda (= Ministry of Digital Affairs). Minister TANG is known for revitalizing the computer

languages Perl and Haskell, as well as building the online spreadsheet system EtherCalc in collaboration with Dan BRICKLIN. In the public sector, Minister TANG served on Taiwan national development council's open data committee and the 12-year basic education curriculum committee; and led the country's first e-Rulemaking project. In the private sector, Minister TANG worked as a consultant with Apple on computational linguistics, with Oxford University Press on crowd lexicography, and with Socialtext on social interaction design. In the social sector, Minister TANG actively contributes to g0v ("gov zero"), a vibrant community focusing on creating tools for the civil society, with the call to "fork the government."

NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 13 October

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