

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)  
The issue of uninformed political engagement in the EU.

## Preparation Module

### Ensuring informed political engagement in the EU

Unbiased and reliable media stands as a cornerstone of democratic societies. As of late, European politicians have expressed increasing concern regarding the potential harm of their citizens not only being uninformed, but systematically misinformed about the European Union (EU). The emergence of filter bubbles, enabled by digitalization and liberating media, has created an influx of mis- and disinformation. Such bubbles can distort citizens' perception of reality - oftentimes filled with misinformation, political bias, and one-sided arguments - leading citizens to believe that their bubble is a reflection of reality when, in fact, it is not. Moreover, the growth of filter bubbles has been a main cause of extremism, hindering individuals from making informed decisions based on factual information. Online platforms have become powerful forces for recruitment and extremist idea dissemination, challenging authorities to effectively monitor and counteract these activities. In recent years, Europe has witnessed a rise in right-wing extremism, partly due to increased propaganda and filter bubbles, as well as far-right nationalist movements.

Dear distinguished delegates of the LIBE Committee,

It is our utmost honor to welcome you to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as well as the MEP-family. The MEP-family is a wonderful network of young, intelligent individuals from across Europe. You will be able to discuss various topics and make new acquaintances. As your committee presidents, are eager to meet you all and address **the issue of uninformed political engagement in the EU**.

Our intention during the MEP session in Norway is to identify the best possible solution to the multi-faceted issue of increasing uninformed political engagement in the EU, which poses a threat to all European democracies. To adequately prepare for the discussion, we ask that you read the following instructions and links thoroughly, as well as the accompanying fact sheet. We also encourage you to conduct your own research and discover potential, already-existing solutions to enhance. Adequate preparation is essential for creating a well-crafted resolution, and foundational knowledge concerning the issue, along with the European parliament's abilities and limitations, contributes to more engaging and fruitful discussions.

We are looking forward to meeting you at Utöya!

Best regards from your CPs,

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## **Discussion:**

This topic lets delegates discuss important issues relating to the safety and prosperity of the EU's democratic state, finding and understanding the main issues in regards to the spread of mis- and disinformation, filter bubbles, and extremism as well as cooperate and debate about possible solutions.

## **Paths of reflection:**

for preparation, it might be valuable for delegates to discuss and think about following questions:

- What measures can the EU undertake to disseminate impartial information regarding electoral processes and political entities? How can we ensure that unbiased information reaches everyone?
- To what extent should educational institutions be involved in shaping a populace capable of critical thinking and source analysis?
- How can the spread of mis- and disinformation be prevented?
- What is the significance of filter bubbles in the spread of misinformation?
- What are the underlying causes behind the resurgence of right-wing extremism in the EU and what problems does extremism in general cause to democracies.

## **Expectations:**

1. Read and understand the preparation module, factsheet and the links provided.
2. An understanding of the issue and some of its aspects (e.g. understanding some causes like extremism, filter bubbles, mis- and disinformation)
3. Knowledge of the key words listed in the factsheet.
4. Knowledge of actions and pursuits already made to ensure informed political engagement in the EU.
5. Think and read about possible solutions to the issue presented, the links below provide some insight in this.

## **Useful links:**

United nation plan of action to combat violent extremism:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/prevention-extremism-when-conducive-terrorism-day>

EU's counter radicalization and terrorism agenda:

[https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/counter-terrorism-and-radicalisation\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/counter-terrorism-and-radicalisation_en)

An assessment of current strategies to combat extremism (right-wing and islamic) within the EU and how they could be improved:

[https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-04/ran\\_adhoc\\_cont\\_manif\\_vrwe\\_eu\\_overv\\_peve\\_pract\\_2021\\_en.pdf](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-04/ran_adhoc_cont_manif_vrwe_eu_overv_peve_pract_2021_en.pdf)

Explanation and possible solutions of how right wing extremist groups exploit the internet to their advantage:

<https://dam.gcsp.ch/files/doc/white-crusade-how-to-prevent-right-wing-extremists-from-exploiting-the-internet>

How to combat fake news and disinformation:

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/how-to-combat-fake-news-and-disinformation/>

Left-wing extremism in the EU and how to combat it:

<https://www.statewatch.org/media/2555/eu-council-violent-left-wing-extremism-ctc-paper-10101-21.pdf>