



Romanian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union



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GREATER RESILIENCE TO ENSURE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

1 APRIL 2019, PRESS ROOM - JL



High level conference

13:30 – 13:45

Welcome coffee

13:45 – 14:00

Introductory remarks: **Ambassador Luminița Odobescu**, Permanent Representative of Romania to the EU – welcome address; **EU Affairs Minister of Romania George Ciamba**, ‘Overcoming vulnerabilities ahead of the European Elections’ **Professor Alina Bărgăoanu**, member of the High Level Group on fake news and online disinformation: ‘Resilience – the missing link’

14:15 – 15:15

State of play in fighting disinformation moderated by **Professor Alina Bărgăoanu**

Mr. **Dirk Dubois**, Head of European Security and Defence College – ‘Why do we need a coordinated response?’

Mr. **Lutz Güllner**, Head of Division for Strategic Communications, EEAS: - ‘Progress in implementing the Action Plan against Disinformation’

Ms. **Marie-Hélène Boulanger**, Head of Unit, DG Justice: ‘Elections package’

Mr. **Doru Frantescu** - CEO of *VoteWatch* Europe – ‘European elections – not business as usual’

Mr. **Sebastian Bay** NATO StratCom COE Riga, ‘StratCom and Elections: Lessons Learned from the recent elections in Sweden, Latvia, Estonia and Finland’



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– High level conference –

- 15:15 – 15:30** **Coffee break**
- 15:30 – 16:30** **Increasing resilience to electoral interference and the impact of new technologies on society - moderator Professor Iulian Chifu, President Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Center Bucharest**
- ❖ **Positive narratives and long-term media and digital literacy programs:** : Ms. **Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen**, Director General, DG Communication; Mr. **Etienne Bassot**, Director, Member's Research Service, Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services, European Parliament; Ms. **Aura Salla**, Foreign Policy Adviser, European Political Strategy Center, European Commission; Ms. **Marina Popescu**, Director, Median Research Centre; Mr. **Boris Radanovic**, UK Safer Internet Center; Mr. **Alexandru Giboi**, Secretary General, European Alliance of Press Agencies
- 16:30 – 16:45** **Q&A**
- 16:45 – 17:30** ❖ **The Code of Practice as implemented by platforms and effective early-warning mechanisms while preserving media freedom - moderator Professor Alina Bărgăoanu, member of the High Level Group on fake news and online disinformation:** Mr. **Thomas Myrup Kristensen**, Head of Facebook Brussels Office; Ms. **Manuela Catrina** – Secretary of State, Ministry of Communications of Romania; (tbc); Mr. **Viktoras Daukšas**, President, Debunk, Lithuania; Ms. **Corina Rebegea**, resident fellow, CEPA – Washington; Ms. **Oana Popescu**, Director, Global Focus; Mr. **Sami Acef**, fact checking expert, Agence France Presse; Mr. **Iulian Alecu**, Deputy Director General, CERT-RO (Romanian National Computer Emergency Response Team)
- 17:30 – 17:45** **Q&A**
- 17.50 – 18.00** **Concluding remarks -Professor Alina Bărgăoanu, member of the High Level Group on fake news and online disinformation - ,Elections in the Digital era'**
- 18:00** **Cocktail**