Disinformation
Finding the silver bullet

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The “Bad Information Triangle”

- **Misinformation**: Erroneous information (=no bad intention)
- **Disinformation**: Deliberately misleading information
- **Cyber attacks**: Hacks, Selected leaks
False or twisted information created or pushed with the intention to harm
Typical EU myths can be exploited to strengthen the phenomenon.
The European Parliament

- Important concerns since 2016 regarding disinformation, misinformation, hybrid threats and electoral interference

- European Parliament resolution on online platforms (2017)

- European Parliament StratCom resolution (2019)
  - upgrade of East StratCom Task Force to permanent structure
  - Internet and social media companies to help battle disinformation (without undermining freedom of speech)
  - legal framework to counter hybrid threats.
What DG COMM does

- Intensified work inside EP (taskforce) and with other EU institutions and EU countries to implement EU Action plan
- Develop new system for early detection
- Awareness raising - information sessions for the public and for Members
- Research
Clear, accessible information on
What EU does...
Countering disinformation has its limits

- Exposing disinformation can spread the myth to new audiences
- A simple myth is more attractive than a complicated correction
- Backfire effect – corrections can strengthen already fixed views
- Most effective: warn and inform people beforehand
Looking forward working together!

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