



Romanian Presidency  
of the Council of the  
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# GREATER RESILIENCE TO ENSURE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

1 APRIL 2019, PRESS ROOM - JLS



## *High level conference*

**13:30-13:45**

**Welcome coffee**

**13:45 – 14:15**

**Introductory remarks – EU Affairs Minister of Romania George Ciamba,**

‘Overcoming vulnerabilities ahead of the European Elections’; welcome address - **Professor Alina Bargaoanu**, member of the High Level Group on fake news and online disinformation;

**14:20 – 15:15**

**State of play in fighting disinformation** – moderated by Professor Alina Bargaoanu:

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

Ms. **Manuela Catrina** – Secretary of State, Ministry of Communications of Romania – ‘Resilience – the missing link’

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



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**15:15-15:30**

**Coffee break**

**15:30-17:30**

**Increasing resilience to electoral interference and the impacts of new technologies on society** - moderator **Professor Alina Bargaoanu**, member of the High Level Group on fake news and online disinformation:

❖ **Elections package** : Ms **Tiina Astola**, Director General of DG Justice and Consumers

❖ **Developing positive narratives and long-term media and digital literacy programs:** Ms. **Aura Salla**, Foreign Policy Adviser, European Political Strategy Center, European Commission; Ms. **Marina Popescu**, Director, Median Research Centre; Mr. **Boris Radanovic**, Engagement and Partnership Manager, UK Safer Internet Center; Mr. **Etienne Bassot**, Director, Member's Research Service, Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services, European Parliament

❖ **Effective early-warning mechanisms while preserving media freedom:** Mr **Edvinas Kerza**, Vice-Minister of National Defence of Lithuania (tbc); Mr. **Viktoras Daukšas**, President, Debunk, Lithuania; Mr. **Alexandru Giboi**, Secretary General, European Alliance of Press Agencies Ms. **Corina Rebegea**, resident fellow, CEPA – Washington; France – government expert; Lithuania –government expert.

❖ **The Code of Practice as implemented by platforms:** Mr.**Thomas Myrup Kristensen**, Head of Facebook Brussels Office; 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 Bargaoanu**, member of the High Level Group on fake news and online disinformation; - ‚Elections in the Digital era‘

**18:00**

**Cocktail**