

Disinformation Review Issue No 54 - 19 January 2017

Date	Language / Targeted Audience	Summary of the Disinformation	Link to the Disinformation	Disinforming outlet (s)	Disproof	Reported by
04.01.2017	ENG	US sends 3,600 tanks against Russia - massive NATO deployment underway.	http://bit.ly/2j7N5Lv	Doni News	The disinformation about the amount of tanks has been spread also in mainstream media. In stark contrast to the 3,600 tanks mentioned in the article, the actual number is 87 tanks, correctly reported by e.g Deutsche Welle http://bit.ly/2islrU . Within three days the disinformation had been repeated by a dozen websites in the United States, Canada and Europe, and shared some 40,000 times. It was translated into Norwegian; quoted, unchallenged, by Russian state news agency RIA Novosti; and spread among Russian-language websites, as shown by the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab http://bit.ly/2j7dXLE .	East Stratcom
06.01.2017	ENG	The Russian invasion of Donbass is fabricated by the Western media, using the pictures of Russian troops in Ossetia. Media in Europe are constantly lying about the situation in Ukraine.	http://bit.ly/2jADixB	Graham Philips "documentary" youtube	No evidence given. There is in fact a lot of credible evidence of a Russian presence in Donbass, for example in the findings of the International Criminal Court http://bit.ly/2ftv6iT . The "independent" journalist who made the "documentary" is employed by Russia Today (which is to 100 % funded by the Kremlin). http://bzfd.it/2jPrK93	Promote Ukraine
08.01.2017	BUL	The EU bans snowmen because they are white, hence racist. If you don't make a black and yellow snowman next to the white snowman, you will be fined 5 000 euro.	http://bit.ly/2jnziQQ	The Bulgarian Times	No, the EU is not banning snowmen, nor snow or any other form of water. Concerning law-making in the EU, one can learn more here http://bit.ly/2jbviWa .	East Stratcom Network
09.01.2017	ENG	Dutch court blocks access to data gathered by independent journalists in Donbass.	http://bit.ly/2iJT3Bc	TASS	The Dutch court has not been involved in the case, nor does the Prosecutors' office plan any actions towards the journalists. http://bit.ly/2jayUrP	East Stratcom Network

09.01.2017	GEO	To exemplify how NATO interventions work, a picture of dead civilians showing the outcome of NATO bombings in Kosovo in 1999 is published.	http://bit.ly/2j4mvTt	Politicano Facebook page	The photo published by Politicano was taken by a Reuters' photograph Peter Andrews on August 28 1995 in Bosnia http://reut.rs/2iKN0fS and shows the explosion near Markale market that killed 38 people. The explosion took place in the light of the armed conflict between the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serb Republic. In 1999, the UN investigation http://bit.ly/2igDk0y revealed that the missiles were thrown from west, Lukavica, which then belonged to Bosnian Serbs. http://bit.ly/2jn7AUp	Myth Detector
09.01.2017	CZE	The latest series of terrorist attacks in Turkey (31. 12. – Istanbul, 5. 1. – Izmir) were orchestrated by agents of Western secret services.	http://bit.ly/2jEIXmu	bezpolitickekorektnosti.cz	No evidence presented for the claims. Furthermore, ISIS claimed responsibility for the New Year's attack at Istanbul's Reina nightclub. Recently, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said that an intelligence organization was involved, however no Western secret services have been mentioned. An offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) claimed responsibility for the car incident in Izmir.	Collected by the Prague Security Studies Institute within the framework of the Centre for International Relations' project co-financed by the Visegrad Fund
09.01.2017	CZE	The deployment of US military forces in Baltic states sets the pretext for the beginning of military conflict with Russia, which is expected to start before the inauguration of American President-elect Donald Trump.	http://bit.ly/2jMn1sE	protiproud.parlamentnilisty.cz	The deployment of multinational troops in Baltic states and Poland was approved in July 2016 at the NATO summit in Warsaw. The expected size of 4000 soldiers is designed to provide security guarantees and bolster deterrence on the eastern flank.	Collected by the Prague Security Studies Institute within the framework of the Centre for International Relations' project co-financed by the Visegrad Fund
09.01.2017	CZE	Ukrainian forces will be trained by foreign instructors who previously trained fighters of ISIS.	http://bit.ly/2j7T2rT	Sputnik.cz	No evidence given. The statement comes from the second-in-command of Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) Eduard Basurin, well-known for spreading lies and disinformation.	Collected by the Prague Security Studies Institute within the framework of the Centre for International Relations' project co-financed by the Visegrad Fund
09.01.2017	CZE	Czech mainstream media do not provide any information about manoeuvres of NATO near Russian borders. The media is silent about deployment of Czech soldiers.	http://bit.ly/2jMn1sE	Protiproud	The media in Czech Republic cover deployment of NATO soldiers and military equipment to Poland and Baltic states http://bit.ly/2jsKL4y .	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
09.01.2017	RUS	The government of Ukraine kills retired soldiers. Betrayers and murderers from Donbas die on the streets of Kyiv.	http://bit.ly/2itBGc4	Politikus.ru	No evidence given. No reports about this apart from pro-Kremlin outlets.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/

09.01.2017	RUS	The CIA report on Russia's cyberattacks has no evidence proving that Russian secret service interfered into the US presidential election.	http://bit.ly/2jrSnUB	60 Minutes @ Rossiya 1 (10:07)	The CIA report consists of two parts. The content of the second part, which presumably contains this evidence, is classified. Moreover, both President Obama and President-elect Donald Trump accept the U.S. intelligence community's conclusion that Russia engaged in cyber attacks during the US Presidential election http://reut.rs/2isf2wo .	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
09.01.2017	RUS	The CIA report on the Russian cyberattacks has only one purpose: to announce Donald Trump as illegitimate president of the US.	http://bit.ly/2jrSnUB	60 Minutes @ Rossiya 1 (18:05)	President-elect Trump has accepted the reports' conclusion.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
10.01.2017	RUS	The countries within the Eastern Partnership do not gain economically from the agreement with the EU.	http://bit.ly/2iona3G	Sputnik	The Eastern Partnership Agreement concerns more than just economical gain, but the Partner countries have so far benefited from €3.2bn of EU funded programmes. http://bit.ly/2jbpYSo	East Stratcom Network
10.01.2017	HUN	According to a poll on the German Focus magazine, the anti-immigrant AfD would win 70% of the vote in a Bundestag were the general election held this Sunday.	http://bit.ly/2jqMnsw	Világlátó	The – unrepresentative - poll on the linked website measures AfD's support currently at 2%, with the CDU/SCU leading by a overwhelming margin (90%). Of course, it fluctuates since it depends on the readers who happen to vote. http://bit.ly/2iw14db	Political Capital Institute
10.01.2017	RUS	Ukraine has doubled or even tripled its gas consumption due to severe winter temperatures and may in fact not have enough for the entire winter season.	http://bit.ly/2iyfWa5	TASS	According to Ukraine's state gas company Naftogaz, Ukraine's 2016 gas consumption decreased by 19% compared to last year and by 45% compared to 2014. Further debinking at StopFake http://bit.ly/2jQoV7x .	StopFake.org

10.01.2017	RUS	Russia annexed Crimea in order to save the population of this Ukrainian peninsula from the threat of a civil war and massive destruction, as happened later in Donbass, the East of Ukraine.	http://bit.ly/2jh7cXG	60 Minutes @ Rossiya 1 (1:07:19)	The annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation took place in February-March 2014, almost two months before the pro-Russian protests in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts escalated into an armed separatist insurgency http://bbc.in/1Ffeglv . // The situation in Ukraine has been under the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court preliminary examination since 25 April 2014. In their Report on Preliminary Examination Activities 2016, they conclude that the situation within the territory of Crimea and Sevastopol amounts to an international armed conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. This international armed conflict began at the latest on 26 February when the Russian Federation deployed members of its armed forces to gain control over parts of the Ukrainian territory without the consent of the Ukrainian Government http://bit.ly/2ftv6iT .	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
11.01.2017	CZE	The government of Ukraine kills retired soldiers. Betrayers and murderers from Donbas die on the streets of Kiev.	http://bit.ly/2itG8Hx	New World Order Opposition	Czech translation of the Politikus article above.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
11.01.2017	RUS	US Secretary of State nominee Rex Tillerson has named the conditions under which America would be prepared to recognize Crimea as Russian territory during his congressional confirmation hearing.	http://bit.ly/2jQoaLJ	TASS	On the contrary, Tillerson said that Russia had no right to take Crimea. Further debunking at StopFake http://bit.ly/2jWUAIL .	StopFake.org
11.01.2017	ENG	The Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI) is the Swedish Armed Forces' informal press department and their report about Russian influence operations in Sweden should be taken with a grain of salt.	http://bit.ly/2jilQh8	Sputnik	The Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI) is an independent institute and a platform for research and information on foreign affairs and international relations. The news outlet cited in Sputnik is an outlet, which is often echoing pro-Kremlin narratives. The report can be found here http://bit.ly/2imcJxy	East Stratcom Network

12.01.2017	HUN	The US soldiers deployed to Poland are a foreign, non-EU force placed close to the Russian borders, therefore a threat to the security of the Russian Federation.	http://bit.ly/2iOTESf	Orosz Hírek	Atlantic Resolve is a demonstration of continued U.S. commitment to collective security through a series of actions designed to reassure NATO allies and partners of America's dedication to enduring peace and stability in the region in light of the Russian intervention in Ukraine. http://bit.ly/2jEo1Lt . This is one part of the efforts to deter Russian aggression, ensure the territorial integrity of our allies and maintain a Europe that is whole, free, prosperous, and at peace," according to US Air Force Lieutenant General Tim Ray, deputy commander of US European Command http://bit.ly/2islNrU	Political Capital Institute
12.01.2017	ENG	NATO is running a complex propaganda campaign against Russia. It includes several elements, like accusations that Russia interfered in the US elections; intervened in Ukraine and Crimea; threatens German elections and European democracy. An important component of the campaign is the statement about Russian involvement in the MH17 tragedy.	http://bit.ly/2jqgeE8	Global Research	The mentioned conclusions come from various credible sources, and are not originally NATO statements (although NATO agrees with the conclusions). The US intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia interfered in the US election http://nyti.ms/2iO7d5e , the International Criminal Court has concluded that Russia intervened illegally in Ukraine http://bit.ly/2ftv6iT , Angela Merkel and German intelligence have stated that Russia's interference can threaten German elections and democracy http://bit.ly/2jPBdNu . Russia's involvement in the MH17 tragedy has been proved by the independent investigation by the JIT http://bit.ly/2d980Nz .	Promote Ukraine
12.01.2017	CZE	The European Values think-tank, as well as the Czech Centre against Terrorism and Hybrid threats, are set to fight "wrong opinions"	http://bit.ly/2iy7He9	Neviditelný pes, Parlamentní listy	The European Values Think-Tank is a non-governmental policy institute defending liberal democracy http://bit.ly/2jWEAGy . The Czech Centre against Terrorism and Hybrid threats publishes statements when a potentially harmful disinformation appears: http://bit.ly/2iUrVma Setting the record straight when a disinformation, i.e. a factually wrong message, appears has nothing to do with "opinion".	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/

12.01.2017	CZE	The annexation of Crimea was necessary in order to prevent Ukraine's junta from expulsion or genocide of civilian Russian-speaking population. In addition, the government in Ukraine is connected to the neo-Nazis who commit crimes against humanity.	http://bit.ly/2iDpbsQ	Protiproud, Nová republika	No evidence given for this often repeated and many times debunked disinformation on Ukraine. The annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation took place in February-March 2014, almost two months before the pro-Russian protests in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts escalated into an armed separatist insurgency http://bbc.in/1Ffeglv . // There were no confirmed reports prior to Russian intervention of any ethnic Russians being threatened in Ukraine. No evidence of genocide has been provided. The far-right Right Sector (often depicted as "fascists" by pro-Kremlin outlets) gained only 1.8% of the votes, far from the threshold needed to enter parliament. Ukraine's electorate clearly voted for unity and moderation, not separatism or extremism, and the composition of the parliament reflects that http://bit.ly/2dFFEdi	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
12.01.2017	RUS	Daesh has been designed and developed by the Obama administration.	http://bit.ly/2jrVFap	Vremya pokazhet @ Pervyi kanal (1:13:12)	No evidence given. The US created the Global Coalition to counter ISIL in 2014 http://bit.ly/1ziAxlq . Furthermore, Western support for the Syrian opposition's success in retaking Dabiq represented a major defeat for Daesh. In contrast, despite the constant Russian rhetoric that they are fighting Daesh, the evidence is that they have in fact done little; that Russia has fabricated some of the proof provided http://bit.ly/1YdW2QE ; and that Russian air strikes have been responsible for hundreds of civilian deaths http://bit.ly/1ZoAdiR .	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
13.01.2017	RUS	The evidence collected by Dutch journalists Stephen Beck and Michel Spekkers in their independent investigation of the MH17 case were confiscated by the Dutch authorities because the West doesn't want the truth to be told. They were ordered to "shut their mouths".	http://bit.ly/2jVDNp9	Nahnews.org	The journalists findings were confiscated since they brought possible human remains with them. However, they have not been hindered from talking about it nor has any legal action been initiated against them. Also, although the journalists did complain about the police at the airport being "needlessly heavy-handed" they have not claimed that their freedom of speech has been impaired in any way. http://bit.ly/2jayUrP	Promote Ukraine

13.01.2017	HUN	CNN constantly spreads fake news and propaganda, and Trump finally told them. The mainstream media has been forging fake news since 2001, including stories on Russian influencing attempts, Brexit, MH-17, Ukraine. CNN will start a counter-strike against Trump by spreading liberal-globalist propaganda and starting a smear campaign against him.	http://bit.ly/2jLqQvg	Világlátó	No evidence presented for these claims. CNN is a core partner of the initiative to counter fake news called First Draft http://bit.ly/2jLWaNk and they have no documented history of spreading fake news.	Political Capital Institute
13.01.2017	RUS	Russia has not seized Ukrainian territory. Russia is not in Ukraine at all.	http://bit.ly/2js6l3k	Vremya pokazhet @ Pervyi kanal (13:48)	Russia violated international law as well as key principles of the European security framework in illegally annexing the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol. The European Union does not recognise and continues to strongly condemn this violation of international law, which remains a challenge to the international security order. This position is based on the UN Charter, which clearly states that the territory of a State cannot be acquired by another State resulting from the threat or use of force, as well as on the Helsinki Final Act in which the signatories declared their intention to respect the inviolability of frontiers and territorial integrity: http://bit.ly/2d9uXT9 . UNGA Resolution 68/262, which condemned Russia's illegal actions in Ukraine, was supported by 100 United Nations member states. Only 10 states opposed it. http://bit.ly/1RZGnjo . President Putin himself admitted to the presence of Russian "people there, who deal with certain matters, including in the military area" [aka soldiers] in December 2015 http://bit.ly/1kC94ch and again in October 2016 http://bit.ly/2enbpt2 .	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
13.01.2017	RUS	Russia is not fighting in Ukraine.	http://bit.ly/2js6l3k	Vremya pokazhet @ Pervyi kanal (31:03)	The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court have concluded that the situation within the territory of Crimea and Sevastopol amounts to an international armed conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. This international armed conflict began at the latest on 26 February when the Russian Federation deployed members of its armed forces to gain control over parts of the Ukrainian territory without the consent of the Ukrainian Government http://bit.ly/2ftv6iT .	Pavel Spirin, former journalist

15.01.2017	RUS	Unlike our Western partners, Russia has delivered and continues to deliver real humanitarian assistance to the Syrian population, aimed at preventing a humanitarian disaster in a number of cities and towns of the country.	http://bit.ly/2jF2jHP	Nikolay Patrushev in Rossiyskaya Gazeta	The European Union is the leading donor in the international response to the crisis. More than €5 billion have been mobilised for relief and recovery assistance to Syrians. More about what the EU is doing with regards to humanitarian aid to Syria here http://bit.ly/1Nunsvq . The EU fully support to the UN-led process and to the UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura. During the Foreign Affairs Council on 16th of January, the Ministers recalled the need to ensure full humanitarian access and protection throughout the country http://bit.ly/2jH10vq .	East Stratcom Network
17.01.2017	RUS	Swedens Minister of Foreign Affairs Margot Wallstrom calls for white males to be castrated.	http://bit.ly/2jssJ2l	Twitter/Blog	This old disinformation has been spread via a blog and twitter. The Swedish Embassy in Russia has refuted the claims as being disinformation http://bit.ly/2jUPOHo .	East Stratcom Network
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