



Towards a European democracy shield in our digital world:

The role of information integrity

Policy roundtable

Tuesday 10 December 2024 | 12:30 - 14:00 CET

Library Reading Room, Spinelli 5D, Brussels and live on Webex

Speakers



Sabine Verheyen has been a Member of the European Parliament for the German Christian Democrats (CDU) since 2009. In 2019 she was elected as Chairwoman of the Committee for Culture and Education, after having served as coordinator for the European People's Party in this committee for five years. In 2024, she was elected as the First Vice-President of the European Parliament. In this role, she is the Chair of the Working Group on Communication, Outreach and Research; she is also responsible for Budget, AI as well as the LUX Prize. After graduating from the St. Ursula Gymnasium in Aachen in 1983, she studied architecture at the Aachen University of Applied Sciences until 1988.



Arvinn Gadgil is Director of UNDP Global Policy Centre for Governance and has been engaged in governance and development policy for more than 20 years. Before joining UNDP he was Policy Director for International Development Policy in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has also been Senior Director of the Norwegian Refugee Council and has held a number of board positions in academic institutions, civil society organizations and inter-governmental institutions. He was State Secretary, Deputy Minister and Junior Minister for international development, climate and environment over a period of nearly six years in Norway. Trained as a career diplomat, he has also worked in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Arvinn holds degrees in development studies, economics and international studies from the UK. He is a Norwegian citizen, and an overseas citizen of India.





Charles Baubion is leading the work on Information Integrity and Foreign Interference in the Public Governance Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD). Previously an Advisor in the Director's Office, Charles supported government's reforms towards better anticipation, resilience and trust, and reinforcing democracy. As a risk and resilience expert, he joined the OECD in 2012 to initiate work on critical infrastructure, science/policy interface, strategic crisis management and peer reviews of risk management policies. Charles was working previously on risk management and water resources management in China, Europe, North-Africa, and at the United Nations both on public policies and in scientific projects. Charles is a French national, he is a former alumni of Ecole Polytechnique and holds Master Degrees in Hydrology from Paris School of Mines and Natural Resources Management from Agro Paris Tech.



Filip Grzegorzewski is Head of Information Integrity and Countering Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference Division – EEAS, Strategic Communication and Foresight. From 2019 to 2024, he represented the European Union in Taiwan as the Head of the European Economic and Trade Office. Between 2015 and 2019, he chaired the Asia-Oceania Working Group (COASI) of the Council of the EU, which brings together representatives from all Member States to agree on policies towards the region. Prior to that, he served at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2011-2015) as Director of the Asia-Pacific Department, Head of the Policy Unit, and Deputy Head of the Cabinet (Minister's Secretariat). From 2008 to 2011, he was Political Counsellor at the EU Delegation to China and Mongolia. He graduated from the Polish Diplomatic Academy and the University of Warsaw, where he studied international relations and, concurrently, Chinese studies.





Seemab Ghazal Sheikh is Acting Head of Tech Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Seemab joined the Tech Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in January 2024, where she has led work on foreign and security policy aspects of Quantum Technology, Artificial Intelligence and EU's Digital diplomacy. From 2021 to 2023, she held the position as Director for EU and International Affairs at the Ministry of Business, Industry and Financial Affairs. From 2018 to 2021, she was Deputy Director for Trade Policy and Analysis in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Seemab is a career diplomat, and has served as Deputy Head of Mission in Dublin and Islamabad, and covered Middle East and Western Balkan portfolios at the Danish Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels. She has led the work on EU Development Policy during the Danish EU Presidencies in 2012. Seemab holds a Msc and Bsc in Economics from the University of Copenhagen. Her academic focus has been on Development Economics, International Trade and International Political Economy. Seemab also holds a diploma in International Conflict Resolution from London School of Economics.



Naja Bentzen is a policy analyst in the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), covering aspects related to information manipulation, information integrity and transatlantic relations in the Digital Policies Unit in the Members' Research Service. Before her return to EPRS in May 2024, Naja worked in the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington DC with a focus on democracy and disinformation. While in Washington, she was also resident fellow at the German Marshall Fund US and George Mason University. Prior to joining the European Parliament, Naja worked as an open source analyst in Vienna, Austria. Previously, she has worked as a journalist-based in Vienna - for Scandinavia's leading weekly, Weekendavisen, covering Central and South-Eastern Europe.

