

To ERGA Members

Dear Colleagues,

The world order after the World War II is based on the principles and goals of international coexistence of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations including security, respect for international law, tolerance, dignity, and honor for the people of the United Nations. For a considerable period after the World War II, there have been many examples undermining these principles, among which is the recent growing problem of the negative impact of media activities on the fundamental principles of modern humanity.

On February 9, 2024, the interview of the American journalist Tucker Carlson with President Putin was released, and it was posted on the social network X and YouTube platform on Tucker Carlson's official channel, shared by other media outlets, and gathered an audience of millions.

The world has heard and witnessed cynical disinformation and hate speech, geopolitical rhetoric grounded on pseudo-historical theses that allow Putin to justify his aggression against Ukraine, built upon the principles of ethnic supremacist ideology, which contradicts the principles of the UN and also any international law and paves the way to new military conflicts. In Putin's interview, the world saw a justification for aggression, an attempt to deny recognised facts and the objective historical process, modern realities and the logic of aggressive imperial thinking, the last historical manifestation of which was the ideology of national socialism of the Third Reich.

The phantom of September 1939 has once again materialised in the flesh and soul of the new "peacemaker". In Putin's view, the speech of Reich Chancellor A. Hitler on September 1, 1939, in which he justified the outbreak of World War II, is reliable historical evidence that Poland forced Hitler to start the war. This is a direct justification of the genocide and policy of extermination of the peoples of Europe, the Holocaust carried out by the Nazis during World War II, a distortion of historical truth and a demonstrative manifestation of his own motives for the war in Ukraine.

It is a lie that Poland ever cooperated with Hitler, especially in 1939. It was Poland that, on September 1, 1939, put up the first armed resistance to the imperial policy of the Third Reich Poland and the Polish nation, after 123 years of partition, particularly have been loving freedom, independence and peace. It was the 1939 agreement under the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact that caused Poland to be attacked again (on September 1, 1939 by the Third Reich, on September 17, 1939 by the Soviet Union) and occupied by the two most criminal ideologies: nazism and communism. Currently, it is Ukraine that is putting up active armed resistance to Russian imperialism.

For a decade, the whole world has witnessed the unrestrained manifestation of the Russian state ideology of imperial chauvinism, for which there are no alternatives other than resorting to violence, "correcting the wrong peoples" and war. But the greatest concern is the fact that journalists or media in democratic countries tolerate this nonsense, providing a platform for the spread of totalitarian ideology without even attempting to responsibly understand the impact and consequences of their activities. This is a mockery not only of common sense, but also of freedom of speech as one of the fundamental values of democracy.

These information mechanisms, combined with other manifestations of propaganda activity, are aimed at stimulating and deepening not only the war in Ukraine, but also at undermining international stability and the global desire for peace among the peoples of the world. They fuel hostility between individuals and groups. Forms of such influence include

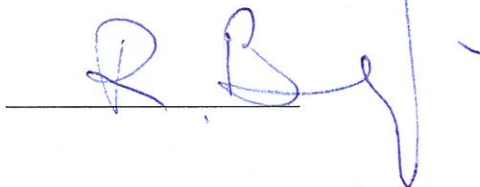
propaganda, the dissemination of false information, distortion of facts in order to provoke or deepen conflicts, and the creation of a favourable atmosphere of distrust and antagonism between countries and peoples worldwide.

Several years ago, European media regulators, united under the ERGA platform, decided to strengthen cooperation in the field of disinformation in order to protect democracy and democratic values. They agreed to contribute to the development of a new European Code of Practice on Disinformation.

Previous ERGA work programmes and its current activities include Subgroup 3 which is aimed on Countering disinformation and strengthening democracy in the digital environment. Therefore, we appeal to ERGA with a proposal to maximise the activities of this group and European regulators in general for take joint measures at the European level to develop requirements and standards to prevent the spread of false information, distortion of facts, and manipulations aimed at deepening and further provocation of military conflicts and justifying aggressive actions against other countries, to ensure peaceful coexistence, stability and protection of the democratic information space of the European countries.

We are strongly recommending for our dear Colleagues from ERGA to organize additional workshops devoted to Russian disinformation and threats resulting from Russia and Russian language media in many European countries.

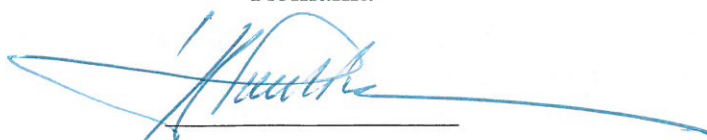
Lietuvos Radijo ir Televizijos Komisija
[Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania]
Lithuania



Krajowa Rada Radiofonii i Telewizji
[National Broadcasting Council]
Poland



Consiliul National al Audiovizualului
[National Audiovisual Council]
Romania



Національна рада України з питань телебачення і радіомовлення
[National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine]
Ukraine

