

Countries have adopted or are considering laws to combat online falsehoods. Why?

France

- 2018 Law to Combat the Manipulation of Information targets the rapid dissemination of fake news through digital tools

[... in democracies, the protection of citizens depends on access to high-quality information... Not all information is of the same value.]

– French President Emmanuel Macron, on combatting fake news

United Kingdom

- Exploring a range of legislative and non-legislative options, including requiring technology companies and online forum operators to act against illegal content

[In this rapidly changing digital world, our existing legal framework is no longer fit for purpose ... democracy is at risk.]

– UK Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee in its inquiry on fake news

Germany

- 2017 Network Enforcement Act requires social networks to promptly remove illegal content, including falsehoods that are criminal in nature

[... current mechanisms and the voluntary measures agreed on by social networks are inadequate ...]

– German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, on the Network Enforcement Act

Ukraine

- Updated national media laws in 2017 to meet the new challenges of disinformation

[... Ukraine has experienced first-hand the undermining effects of massive foreign-based fake news attacks that were aimed at destabilizing public opinion ... and weakening of the national dialogue ...]

– Ukraine Crisis Media Center

European Union

- Closely monitoring the industry's Voluntary Code of Practice on Disinformation; may propose further regulatory actions

[... effective and coordinated action [is necessary to] protect the EU, its citizens, its policies and its Institutions.]

– European Commission, on tackling online disinformation

United States

- Considering new legislation on social media bots and online political advertisements

[... what is new is the advent of social media tools with the power to magnify – and target – propaganda and fake news on a scale that was unimaginable ...]

– US Senate Intelligence Committee Vice-Chair Mark Warner on regulating social media and tech firms

Singapore

- Select Committee recommended new legislation to provide the necessary scope, speed and adaptability to deal with the new phenomenon

[Ultimately, what is desired is a public that is informed and respects the facts, a society that is cohesive and resilient, and a people whose sovereignty and freedom are safeguarded.]

– Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods

