

Europe wants to crack down on fake news. But one person's 'fake news,' is another's democratic dissent.



A German journalist reviews an article with false claims. (Krisztian Bocsi/Bloomberg News)

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BRUSSELS — The European Union on Thursday will unveil a strategy for fighting fake news that could be a model for Western nations, but already it has run into trouble defining the line between disinformation and dissent.

The new E.U. proposals will encourage voluntary pledges from Facebook and others to highlight the sources of information they feature and to promote content from credible media outlets. The E.U. also wants to push news literacy education and to fund private fact-checking organizations that subscribe to standards of political independence and objectivity.

Other countries, including the United States, are also cooperating with each other to combat fake news. [France](#), [Germany](#) and [Italy](#) are working on national plans.

But a separate E.U. effort to combat foreign interference illustrates what can go awry.