

## **Abstract**

The present research seeks to investigate how Russian disinformation campaigns contribute to the ideological polarization of the European Parliament. This research analyzes the debates surrounding the Digital Services Act (DSA) adopted in the European Parliament in July 2022. This landmark legislation was designed to impose new rules on digital service providers to protect users and consumers online, respecting the principle that what is illegal offline should also be illegal online. Additional debates on Russian interference and hybrid warfare will be subject to analysis in order to identify patterns of discourse, shifts in parliamentary alignments, and potential impact on EU policy-making. The qualitative method of Critical Discourse Analysis will be applied to speeches of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to uncover power dynamics and rhetorical strategies used by supporters and detractors of digital regulation, unveiling strong ideological divides and concerns about digital sovereignty, accountability, and the respect of democratic values. The findings indicate that a substantial majority of EU deputies are pleading to regulate the digital environment to 'put an end to the Digital Wild West' and ultimately protect EU democratic processes from foreign interference. Conversely, a minority of conservative and far-right MEPs defend freedom of expression from content regulation and firmly denounce an attack on pluralism and censorship.