

Public Communication by EU Institutions and Bodies

47th DPO Day Online Edition

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Are public authorities legally authorised to communicate?

‘Public relations work by the government and by legislative bodies is necessary, within limits, to provide citizens with the information they need to exercise their political options for action.’

*‘Thus, governments are free to present their plans and the measures implemented to the public using state funds, as long as this **information is appropriate, and objective.**’*

—German Federal Constitutional Court, 2 March 1977



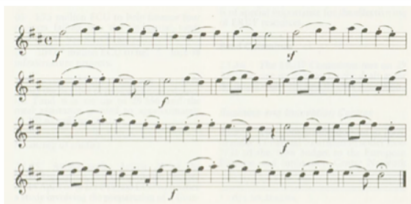
Democracy and transparency in the EU

- The **principle of transparency** is stated in Articles 1 TEU and 10 TEU and in Article 15 TFEU.
- It enables citizens to participate more closely in the decision-making process and guarantees that the administration enjoys greater legitimacy and is more effective and more accountable to the citizen in a **democratic system**.





The motto: United in diversity



The European anthem



The euro



The European flag



Europe Day, 9 May

Figure 1: The European Project



*‘The institutions should work in a more open manner. Together with the Member States, they should **actively communicate about what the EU does and the decisions it takes**. They should use language that is accessible and understandable for the general public. This is of particular importance in order to improve the confidence in complex institutions.’*

—‘White Paper on European governance’, EU Commission 2001



*'Disinformation erodes trust in institutions and in digital and traditional media, and **harms our democracies** by hampering the ability of citizens to take informed decisions. It impairs freedom of expression, a fundamental right enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Charter).'*

*–'Tackling online disinformation: a European Approach',
EU Commission 2018*



*'Market concentration and the rise of platform dominance present a new threat to media pluralism. For the EDPS, this crisis of confidence in the digital ecosystem illustrates the **mutual dependency of privacy and freedom of expression.***

—EDPS Opinion 3/2018 on online manipulation and personal data



Questions and Answers

