

Brussels, 23 November 2023

Dear Mrs De Bolle

For your information, I have submitted this written question to the EP JPSG delegation to be addressed to EUROPOL in the framework of the next JPSG session in February 2024.

Best regards,

Maite Pagazaurtundua

To the attention of EUROPOL:

The evolution of the possibilities of image manipulation through AI is alarming. Its use in political manipulation, in the creation of more sectarian biases which are against the very idea of ideological pluralism is an increasingly serious risk, because the consolidation of highly polarized citizens is, as we know, the greatest attack on the democratic rule of law that, in many cases, no longer even requires foreign interference.

In Spain, since the announcement of an amnesty for those convicted and charged for crimes of embezzlement, against the rule of law, of terrorism, including stable relations with Putin's entourage, massive and peaceful demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of citizens are taking place in broad daylight. At the same time, some masked radicals are trying to unleash violence at night, in a localized manner in front of the main headquarters of the socialist party, mingling among non-violent citizens also expressing their discontent. The tension is severe.

In the midst of this climate, the Communication director of the Socialist party, the governing party, tweeted last Saturday the 18th an image generated by artificial intelligence showing fake demonstrators with dehumanized, savage and brutal features, on the verge of extreme violence. The tweet did not explain that the image originated from AI, thus manipulating, increasing polarization and the risks of escalating extremism.

The precedent of manipulation by AI generating extreme polarization by a person with influence in a governing party exceeds a new limit and should be analyzed to establish limits, social, administrative or legal to the use of AI. The concept of due diligence should be extended to avoid such uses of AI.

Urgent reflection is needed on the manipulation of images by AI from political parties, and their spheres of influence, given the necessary responsibility with regard to the procedures used to place themselves in the public sphere.

Can Europol indicate whether its new 2020+ strategic plan foresees actions to prevent and fight against the proliferation of "deep fakes", especially those with political intentions aimed at disinformation, especially if the issuers belong to political parties and/or the executive powers themselves?