

# Meeting Minutes

## **Attendance:**

The Stakeholder Platform's pilot phase launch meeting was hosted by the European Centre for Democratic Resilience (ECDR) in hybrid format. It was attended by representatives of the European Fact-Checking Standards Network (EFCSN) and the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO). The meeting was chaired by the Director-General for Communication of the Commission, with participation of the Deputy Director-General of DG CNECT and a representative of Poland.

It was also attended by the national contact points from 17 Member States, the contact points from the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Centre Secretariat.

## **Main points raised:**

The meeting marked the launch of the pilot phase of the Stakeholder Platform of the European Centre for Democratic Resilience with the two participating civil society organisations. In the opening remarks, the Commission representatives stressed the importance of a whole-of-society approach for strengthening democratic resilience, including addressing the foreign information manipulation and interference threats. They welcomed the pilot phase as an important step in bringing together structured expertise from civil society, academia, media, fact-checkers and digital literacy actors to strengthen democratic resilience.

EFCSN welcomed the Stakeholder Platform and highlighted four main points: the pilot phase as a testing ground for best practices linked to governance; the essential principle of maintaining editorial freedom and organisational independence; fostering two-way information exchange; and the proposal for an independent funding mechanism<sup>1</sup>.

EDMO also supported the Stakeholder Platform and underlined the importance of ethics standards, preservation of independence in daily cooperation, *stronger two-ways information-sharing with Member States and institutions, stronger cooperation for resilience-building activities at national and local level, and predictable funding arrangements with safeguards for full independence.*

Poland welcomed the establishment of the Stakeholder Platform and presented the Polish Resilience Council as a coordinated, national model bringing together around 25 organisations and partners through six thematic task forces. Examples included work with local authorities, legal recommendations, educational materials, and youth resilience initiatives. They also highlighted the role of the Resilience Council in effective crisis communication.

Questions raised by participants of the meeting included the role of the Stakeholder Platform in shaping the Centre's agenda and the envisioned feedback loop. The Commission underlined the collaborative character of the Stakeholder Platform and confirmed that the pilot phase will serve to test how the stakeholders across the EU can develop together concrete projects with the Member States to strengthen democratic resilience.

### **Next steps:**

Technical-level meetings will be scheduled with the pilot phase members to test workflows and modalities of engagement.

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<sup>1</sup> The proposal refers to the Information Integrity Fund: <https://efcsn.com/policy/efcsn-position-paper-information-integrity-as-a-key-objective-of-the-european-democracy-shield/>.

The open call for the expression of interest for additional members will be published in autumn 2026.

The pilot phase will continue until the launch of the Stakeholder Platform in spring 2027, when a high-level launch event will take place following the selection of the members of the Stakeholder Platform.