

PRESS RELEASE

June 23, 2017

Astana

Fake news is a threat that everybody must fight together.

"Fake news is a threat that everybody must fight together," - said **Dauren Abayev**, Kazakh Minister of Information and Communications, in his speech at the XIV Eurasian Media Forum.

"Within the framework of the session "Towards a Third World War"- in the Context of Global Informatization," the panellists came to the conclusion that information weapons are still among the leading technologies: in the age of messengers and social networks, the information vacuum is filled with unnecessary and unverified information. The minister cited statistics that, on average, 20 million messages are received per WhatsApp across the world and 3 million videos are watched on Youtube channel. "A lot of smartphones and lots of silly people," - the minister quoted the American comedian.

Catherine Kano, president of the CPAC channel and one of Canada's influential media personalities, said that "we lost control over the accuracy and truthfulness of the information. In a survey last month, 80 percent of Canadians said it was easy to figure out the fake news. And as a result, 63% of people failed the test and they could not determine the truth. It's not as easy as it seems - it all looks realistic. What is happening today? People do not necessarily read the whole text, but if the title attracting, it can become true, and it is sent on without looking," - she noted.

Another participant in the discussion, **Giles Kenningham**, founder of Trafalgar Strategies (UK), expressed the opinion that "the explosive growth of fake news is a serious threat to democracy in the East and the West." Internet, while it was a wonderful thing for a revolutionary breakthrough in the information space, has also become a platform for the rapid dissemination of falsified news. And Facebook is one of the main "accused" when it comes to fake news. Almost 35-40 minutes a day people spend on their social networks, they read news. "It's irresponsible, all of this should be a subject to stringent measures to ensure the veracity of news and that they are, indeed, part of the social institutions, not a destructive force", - he added and continued: "We need all of the same degree of control over what is happening in social networks. It seems to me that there should be a great desire to return to traditional sources of news that can be trusted and have a good reputation. In the end, maybe I do not support state regulation as a whole, but some kind of pressure should exist anyway. "

Dauren Abayev said that fighting against fake news for Kazakhstan is one of the important tasks. In his opinion, in the matter of promptness, state bodies are still largely losing to social networks. The rule of the "golden hour" does not work anymore and it is necessary to inform the population promptly. And we are just working in this direction. At the same time, I do not see a connection between the ban on smartphones and the promptness of our officials," - the minister said.

According to the invited experts, Kazakhstani officials should be interested in high-quality information coverage of their work, but there are problems with communication and operational efficiency. "I think it's not just the problem of Kazakhstan and international journalists could help us in organizing high-quality communication between the authorities and the population," - the minister said.

Contact information for mass media:

Elmira Seidazimova

Phone: +7 777 713 0007

Email: pr@eamedia.org