

## **Written Representation 169**

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### **The experience of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in countering fake news**

Disseminating falsehoods about Russia the Western media always resorts to the same method providing no concrete facts. The first step is to release an information leak from an anonymous high-ranking source or even to publish commentaries by public officials deliberately omitting any factual credible information. The next step is to spread fake news through the Internet shaping public opinion based on wrong assumptions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation introduced a multi-level monitoring mechanism of the world mainstream media to detect and identify false information about Russia.

To respond to the numerous fake publications in the foreign media a section called "Examples of publications, retranslating false information about Russia" (<http://www.mid.ru/ru/nedostovernie-publikacii>) was launched in February 2017 on the official website of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Through this platform the inaccurate publications of both foreign and local media, social networking services and messengers are subject to sound analysis and further rebuttal. The list of such publications is regularly updated. Above-mentioned materials are translated into English (available at <http://www.mid.ru/en/nedostovernie-publikacii>) and promptly reposted to all verified accounts of the Ministry including Facebook, Twitter, Telegram and VK. There are 56 articles posted on the website as of March 15, 2018.

The Russian diplomatic missions abroad contribute to these efforts by public speeches and rebuttals as well as by posting awareness-raising materials on their respective Internet platforms.

It is, of course, not an easy task to tackle all fake news targeting Russia. Our primary goal is to highlight the overarching trends in the circulation of falsehoods and to prevent attempts to deliberately inculcate disinformation into the public opinion both in Russia and abroad.