

Code of Practice on  
Disinformation – Report of  
*Les Surligneurs* for the  
period 01/01/2023 –  
31/12/2023

## Table of Content

<b>Executive summary</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>V. Empowering Users</b> .....	<b>1</b>
Commitment 17 .....	1
<b>VI. Empowering the research community</b> .....	<b>1</b>
Commitment 26 .....	1
Commitment 27 .....	2
Commitment 28 .....	2
Commitment 33 .....	3
<b>VIII. Transparency Centre</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Commitment 34 .....	3
Commitment 35 .....	3
Commitment 36 .....	4
<b>IX. Permanent Task-Force</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Commitment 37 .....	4
<b>X. Monitoring of Code</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Commitment 38 .....	5
Commitment 39 .....	5
Commitment 40 .....	6
Commitment 42 .....	6
Commitment 43 .....	6

## Executive summary

Les Surligneurs is a legal fact-checking media outlet based in France whose mission is to fight disinformation in the field of the law through the publication of legal-checks and various other types of contents such as analyses, interviews or quizzes.

Les Surligneurs is a verified member of both the IFCN and the EFCSN and follows the highest fact-checking standards. Vincent Couronne, its director general, is an elected member of the Governance Body of the EFCSN and its Treasurer.

## V. Empowering Users

### Commitment 17

In light of the European Commission's initiatives in the area of media literacy, including the new Digital Education Action Plan, Relevant Signatories commit to continue and strengthen their efforts in the area of media literacy and critical thinking, also with the aim to include vulnerable groups. [change wording if adapted]

Measure 17.2	
<b>QRE 17.2.1</b>	Les Surligneurs organises and participates in events explaining fact-checking and legal-checking to the general public or raising awareness on disinformation issues. Recent examples can be found in the "events" section of its website. As a media driven by law professors, Les Surligneurs has close links to the academic sector and frequently works with students. Moreover, as a member of the EFCSN, it participates in the network's activities in the field.
Measure 17.3	
<b>QRE 17.3.1</b>	Les Surligneurs is working closely with universities, and other fact-checking organisations and instances.

## VI. Empowering the research community

### Commitment 26

Relevant Signatories commit to provide access, wherever safe and practicable, to continuous, real-time or near real-time, searchable stable access to non-personal data and anonymised, aggregated, or manifestly-made public data for research purposes on Disinformation through automated means such as APIs or other open and accessible technical solutions allowing the analysis of said data.

Measure 26.1	
<b>QRE 26.1.1</b>	Les Surligneurs' articles are freely accessible, and anyone can scrap and analyse them. Les Surligneurs remains open to sharing its relevant data for research purposes. The group itself is strongly connected to the academic sector as it is driven by law professors and doctoral students. Anyone can contact <a href="mailto:contact@lessurligneurs.eu">contact@lessurligneurs.eu</a> for such a request. None has been received yet.

<b>QRE 26.1.2</b>	<i>Les Surligneurs'</i> articles are freely accessible, and anyone can scrap and analyse them. <i>Les Surligneurs</i> remains open to sharing its relevant data for research purposes. The group itself is strongly connected to the academic sector as it is driven by law professors and doctoral students. Anyone can contact <a href="mailto:contact@lessurligneurs.eu">contact@lessurligneurs.eu</a> for such a request. None has been received yet.
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<b>VI. Empowering the research community</b>	
Commitment 27	
Relevant Signatories commit to provide vetted researchers with access to data necessary to undertake research on Disinformation by developing, funding, and cooperating with an independent, third-party body that can vet researchers and research proposals.	
Measure 27.3	
<b>QRE 27.3.1</b>	Les Surligneurs is a member of the EFCSN and works on the establishment of the repository and other initiatives at the EU scale. It remains open to work with the third-party body referred to in Commitment 27.

<b>VI. Empowering the research community</b>	
Commitment 28	
Relevant Signatories commit to support good faith research into Disinformation that involves their services.	
Measure 28.1	
<b>QRE 28.1.1</b>	Anyone can contact <a href="mailto:contact@lessurligneurs.eu">contact@lessurligneurs.eu</a> or fill a form to make requests. Appropriate human resources are dedicated to this, considering that the volume of demands is low.
Measure 28.2	
<b>QRE 28.2.1</b>	Les Surligneurs' fact-checking articles are completely and freely accessible. Anyone can scrap and analyse them.
Measure 28.3	
<b>QRE 28.3.1</b>	Les Surligneurs just joined the Code of Practice and is open to work with EDMO on the annual consultation of European researchers. It did not prohibit or discourage public interest good faith research into Disinformation.

## VII. Empowering the fact-checking community

### Commitment 33

Relevant Signatories (i.e. fact-checking organisations) commit to operate on the basis of strict ethical and transparency rules, and to protect their independence.

Measure 33.1

#### QRE 33.1.1

Les Surligneurs is a member of both the International Fact-checking Network (IFCN) – since July 2021 – and the European Fact-Checking Standards Network (EFCSN), in line with the highest standards of fact-checking. Vincent Couronne, the publication director, is a member of the Governance Body of the EFCSN. Les Surligneurs participates in the Journalism Trust Initiative launched by Reporters Without Borders and published a transparency report accordingly. It is also a member of the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) and the Observatoire des initiatives de lutte contre la désinformation (ODIL).

The governance body has no decision power over the editorial team, which works independently.

## VIII. Transparency Centre

### Commitment 34

To ensure transparency and accountability around the implementation of this Code, Relevant Signatories commit to set up and maintain a publicly available common Transparency Centre website.

Measure 34.1

Measure 34.3

Measure 34.5

## VIII. Transparency Centre

### Commitment 35

Signatories commit to ensure that the Transparency Centre contains all the relevant information related to the implementation of the Code’s Commitments and Measures and that this information is presented in an easy-to-understand manner, per service, and is easily searchable.

Measure 35.1	
Measure 35.2	
Measure 35.3	
Measure 35.4	
Measure 35.5	
Measure 35.6	

**VIII. Transparency Centre**

Commitment 36

Signatories commit to updating the relevant information contained in the Transparency Centre in a timely and complete manner

Measure 36.1	
Measure 36.2	
Measure 36.3	
<b>QRE 36.1.1 (for the Commitments 34-36)</b>	N/A
<b>QRE 36.1.2 (for the Commitments 34-36)</b>	The administration of the Transparency Centre website has been transferred fully to the community of the Code’s signatories, with VOST Europe taking the role of developer.
<b>SLI 36.1.1 - (for Measures 34 and 36) meaningful quantitative information on the usage of the Transparency Centre, such as the average monthly visits of the webpage</b>	The common Transparency Center has received around 35.000 views between July 1st 2023 and December 31st 2023. The average engagement time on the website is 1m11s and reports have been downloaded more than 9.000 times.

**IX. Permanent Task-Force**

Commitment 37

Signatories commit to participate in the permanent Task-force. The Task-force includes the Signatories of the Code and representatives from EDMO and ERGA. It is chaired by the European Commission, and includes representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS). The Task-force can also invite relevant experts as observers to support its work. Decisions of the Task-force are made by consensus. [change wording if adapted]

Measure 37.1	
Measure 37.2	
Measure 37.6	
<b>QRE 37.6.1</b>	Les Surligneurs is working with the task-force and is, more specifically, engaged in the sub-groups on Empowering fact-checkers and on Generative AI. It participates to the meetings and work of the said sub-groups.

## X. Monitoring of Code

### Commitment 38

The Signatories commit to dedicate adequate financial and human resources and put in place appropriate internal processes to ensure the implementation of their commitments under the Code.

Measure 38.1	
<b>QRE 38.1.1</b>	<p>The fact-checkers and members are all working under the EFCSN and IFCN guidelines and standards. Les Surligneurs is working closely with other fact-checking organisations of the EFCSN and IFCN as well as with universities to develop media literacy.</p> <p>One volunteer is in charge of representing Les Surligneurs in the Code of Practice sub-groups and preparing the reports.</p>

## X. Monitoring of Code

### Commitment 39

Signatories commit to provide to the European Commission, within 1 month after the end of the implementation period (6 months after this Code's signature) the baseline reports as set out in the Preamble.



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<b>X. Monitoring of Code</b>	
Commitment 40	
Signatories commit to provide regular reporting on Service Level Indicators (SLIs) and Qualitative Reporting Elements (QREs). The reports and data provided should allow for a thorough assessment of the extent of the implementation of the Code’s Commitments and Measures by each Signatory, service and at Member State level.	
Measure 40.1	
Measure 40.2	
Measure 40.3	
Measure 40.4	
Measure 40.5	
Measure 40.6	

<b>X. Monitoring of Code</b>	
Commitment 42	
Relevant Signatories commit to provide, in special situations like elections or crisis, upon request of the European Commission, proportionate and appropriate information and data, including ad-hoc specific reports and specific chapters within the regular monitoring, in accordance with the rapid response system established by the Taskforce.	

<b>X. Monitoring of Code</b>	
Commitment 43	

Relevant Signatories commit to provide, in special situations like elections or crisis, upon request of the European Commission, proportionate and appropriate information and data, including ad-hoc specific reports and specific chapters within the regular monitoring, in accordance with the rapid response system established by the Taskforce.