

No 'Clear Evidence' of Kremlin Propaganda in Germany - Reports

By [Katie Marie Davies](#)

February 07, 2017



The German flag on the Reichstag building is reflected in the windows of another building of the German parliamentary complex in Berlin. **Ferdinand Ostrop / AP**

German intelligence agencies have found no clear evidence of a Kremlin-led propaganda drive targeting the country's voters.

A year-long investigation found no direct proof that Russian media outlets were running a deliberate disinformation campaign, [an unnamed source told the Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper](#).

The source maintained that while officials still hadn't "found the smoking gun," they had found certain warning signs. "We would have liked to have raised the yellow card," the source said.

The Chancellor's Office is reportedly set to continue the investigation.

Germany's Federal Intelligence Service has produced a 50-page report on their findings so far, working alongside the country's Office for the Protection of the Constitution.

The report still may not be published in a bid to preserve already tense German-Russian ties, the newspaper wrote.

Related article: [Ukraine, Not Russia, Hacked the U.S. Elections, Kremlin Propaganda Reveals](#)

Hans-Georg Maassen, the head of the Constitution Protection Service, first accused Moscow of trying to manipulate the German public before this year's parliamentary elections in November 2016.

He claimed that Kremlin-funded television channels were liable to invent stories to influence public opinion. Russian state television's Channel One found itself under scrutiny in Germany last year when it was exposed as having invented a story on the rape of a 13-year-old girl.

Channel One journalists reported that a girl called Liza had been raped by migrants of "Middle-Eastern appearance" and that the German police had covered up the crime. [The report was proven as false](#) both by German police and independent bloggers.

Related article: [Kremlin Pledges Action of EU's Freedom of Speech 'Clampdown'](#)

The European Parliament has also raised fears that Russia could be waging a propaganda war using its media influence.

In a non-legislative resolution passed on Nov. 23, the parliament condemned Russia's state media as "disinformation and propaganda" designed to "increase Russia's influence and weaken the EU."

The motion passed by 304 votes to 179, with 208 abstentions.

The move saw RT's budget boosted by the Kremlin by [an extra \\$19 million over the next two years.](#)

President Vladimir Putin claimed that Europe hoped to silence "alternative viewpoints" by criticizing the channels. "We are observing a certain, quite obvious, degradation of how democracy is understood in Western society," the president said.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2017/02/07/no-clear-evidence-of-kremlin-propaganda-in-germany-reports-a57062>