News Item

Russia 'paved way for Ukraine ship seizures with fake news drive' | The Guardian

By Daniel Boffey

December 10, 2018

> The Kremlin launched a year-long disinformation campaign to soften up public opinion before its recent seizure of three Ukrainian ships and their crews in the Sea of Azov, the EU's security commissioner has alleged.
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> Julian King said [Russia](#) had paved the way for its decision to fire on and board two artillery ships and a tug boat through the dissemination of fake news.
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> The false claims, said to have been spread for "more than a year", included that [Ukraine](#) had infected the sea with cholera and that its secret services had been trying to transport a nuclear bomb to occupied Crimea, the British commissioner said.
>
> King said the European commission's East StratCom unit, responsible for highlighting disinformation, had discovered a complicated web of untruths emanating from Russian sources.

Source: [Russia 'paved way for Ukraine ship seizures with fake news drive' | World news | The Guardian](#)