

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 117-54
OFFERED BY MRS. TRAHAN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of title LVIII, add the following:

1 **SEC. 58__ . MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH AN**
2 **INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR**
3 **RESEARCH ON THE INFORMATION ENVIRON-**
4 **MENT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
7 shall take such action as may be necessary to seek to ini-
8 tiate negotiations to obtain an agreement on a multilateral
9 basis with countries that are allies or partners of the
10 United States, including countries that are members of
11 the Group of Seven (G7), to establish an independent
12 international center for research on the information envi-
13 ronment (in this section referred to as the “research cen-
14 ter”).

15 (b) CONSULTATION.—As part of the negotiations to
16 obtain an agreement described in subsection (a), the Sec-
17 retary of State should consult with—

18 (1) representatives from providers of prominent
19 online platforms;

1 (2) researchers from the fields of information
2 science, media studies, international data govern-
3 ance, and other similar fields;

4 (3) privacy and human and civil rights advo-
5 cates;

6 (4) technologists, including individuals with
7 training and expertise in the state of the art in the
8 fields of information technology, information secu-
9 rity, network security, software development, com-
10 puter science, computer engineering, and other re-
11 lated fields;

12 (5) representatives from international stand-
13 ards-setting organizations; and

14 (6) experts in mechanisms for enabling access
15 to online platform data which is compliant with data
16 protection frameworks.

17 (c) PURPOSES, FUNCTIONS, AND RELATED ADMINIS-
18 TRATIVE PROVISIONS OF RESEARCH CENTER.—An agree-
19 ment obtained under subsection (a) should include provi-
20 sions relating to the following:

21 (1) The purposes and functions of the research
22 center, including its mandate to ensure the widest
23 possible cooperation among member countries of the
24 research center to ensure such purposes are achieved
25 and such functions are carried out, including to—

1 (A) enable international collaboration to
2 gain understanding and measure the impacts of
3 foreign state and non-state propaganda and
4 disinformation efforts aimed at undermining or
5 influencing the policies, security, or stability of
6 the United States and countries that are allies
7 or partners of the United States;

8 (B) enable international collaboration to
9 gain understanding and measure the impacts of
10 the content moderation, product design deci-
11 sions, and algorithms of online platforms on so-
12 ciety, politics, the spread of hate, harassment,
13 and extremism, security, privacy, and physical
14 or mental health, including considerations for
15 youth development;

16 (C) conduct research projects with a focus
17 on the global information environment that re-
18 quire information from or about multiple online
19 platforms and multi-year time horizons;

20 (D) conduct research projects that explore
21 the impact of published media, such as tele-
22 vision, podcasts, radio, and newspapers, on so-
23 ciety, politics, the spread of hate, harassment,
24 and extremism, security, privacy, and physical

1 or mental health, including considerations for
2 youth development;

3 (E) facilitate secure information sharing
4 between online platforms and researchers affili-
5 ated with the research center;

6 (F) disseminate findings to the public; and

7 (G) offer recommendations to online plat-
8 forms and governments regarding ways to en-
9 sure a safe and resilient online information en-
10 vironment.

11 (2) The governance structure and process for
12 adding and removing member countries of the re-
13 search center.

14 (3) The process by which a researcher can be-
15 come affiliated with or join the research center, in-
16 cluding provisions to ensure the researcher is not
17 working on behalf of a business enterprise.

18 (4) A proposed budget and contributions to be
19 provided by member countries of the research center.

20 (d) PROPOSAL FOR SECURE INFORMATION SHARING
21 WITH RESEARCH CENTER.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—An agreement obtained
23 under subsection (a) should include provisions relat-
24 ing to the following:

1 (A) Best practices regarding what types of
2 information from an online platform should be
3 made available, and under what circumstances,
4 to the research center.

5 (B) A code of conduct for researchers
6 working with information made available as de-
7 scribed in subparagraph (A).

8 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—

9 (A) REVIEW BY RESEARCH CENTER PRIOR
10 TO PUBLICATION.—The provisions described in
11 paragraph (1) should include the circumstances
12 under which the research center will review a
13 publication based on information made available
14 to the research center prior to publication to
15 determine whether the publication violates the
16 privacy of a user of the online platform or other
17 information outlet that made available the in-
18 formation or would reveal trade secrets of the
19 provider of the online platform or other infor-
20 mation outlet.

21 (B) USER PRIVACY.—The provisions de-
22 scribed in paragraph (1) should—

23 (i) ensure that the making available of
24 information to the research center and the
25 provision of access to the information by

1 the research center do not infringe upon
2 reasonable expectations of personal privacy
3 of users of online platforms or of other in-
4 dividuals; and

5 (ii) ensure that information is made
6 available to the research center consistent
7 with any applicable privacy and data secu-
8 rity laws of member countries.

9 (C) CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESEARCH-
10 ERS.—The code of conduct included under
11 paragraph (1)(B) in the provisions described in
12 paragraph (1) should require researchers de-
13 scribed in such paragraph to commit to the fol-
14 lowing:

15 (i) To use information made available
16 to the research center only for research
17 purposes specified in the agreement estab-
18 lishing the research center.

19 (ii) Not to re-identify, or to attempt
20 to re-identify, an individual to whom infor-
21 mation made available to the research cen-
22 ter relates.

23 (iii) Not to publish personal informa-
24 tion derived from information made avail-
25 able to the research center.

1 (iv) To comply with limits on commer-
2 cial use of information made available to
3 the research center or research conducted
4 using such information, as specified by the
5 research center.

6 (e) ONLINE PLATFORM DEFINED.—In this section,
7 the term “online platform” means a service provided over
8 the internet that enables two or more distinct but inter-
9 dependent sets of users (which may be firms or individ-
10 uals) to interact with each other.

11 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State
13 to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal
14 years 2023 and 2024.

