

lesmoutonsenrages.fr

An anonymously run blog that promotes conspiracy theories and health misinformation, including false claims about vaccines and the COVID-19 virus.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 20/100

Ownership and Financing

LesMoutonsEnrages.fr does not disclose its ownership. The domain name is registered to a privacy service that shields the identity of its owner.

The site derives revenue from advertising and donations.

Content

According to the site's About page, Les Moutons Enragés' mission "is to provoke controversy, a clash of ideas and articles that can change minds, one way or another." ("pour but de provoquer la polémique, l'affrontement des idées et des articles permettant de faire évoluer les esprits, que cela soit dans un sens comme dans l'autre.") The site's name means "enraged sheep." A tagline on the homepage reads: "The sheep are fed up, they stay informed" ("Les moutons en ont marre, ils s'informent").

The site publishes opinion and news content on French and international issues, with a focus on politics, health, the environment, and the economy. According to its Who We Are page (Qui sommes nous?), the website is not run by journalists, but by "more than enraged" sheep, who are "fed up with little news secrets" ("moutons.. très enrages qui en avons marre de tous ces petits secrets de l'actualité"). Many articles and videos are republished from sources that present themselves as an alternative to mainstream media, such as Insolentiae.com and Mondialisation.ca. The site also features a forum where readers can discuss issues in the news.

The site does not disclose any political affiliation and is critical of both left-wing and right-wing figures, along with the European Union. LesMoutonsEnrages.fr frequently takes aim at President Emmanuel Macron,

-  Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
-  Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
-  Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
-  Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
-  Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
-  Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
-  Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
-  Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
-  The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.
[More information.](#)

who has been described on the site as the "chief destroyer of the nation" and "the so-called president (who) makes comments that are completely inconsistent."

Typical articles have run under headlines including "The government wants to release low-level radioactive waste in the environment" ("Le gouvernement veut libérer dans l'environnement les déchets à très faible radioactivité"); "150 neighborhoods are under the influence of Islamism, according to the DGSI" ("150 quartiers seraient sous l'emprise de l'islamisme, selon la DGSI"); and "What future for the Yellow Vests?" ("Quel avenir pour les Gilets jaunes ?").

Credibility

LesMoutonsEnrages.fr does not appear to produce original content. Instead, most articles cite, or are copied from, unverified YouTube accounts and sites that NewsGuard has rated as unreliable, such as conspiracy site ReseauInternational.net, Russian state-run agency Sputnik, and populist site LeMediaPourTous.fr. Content often promotes conspiracies and false health claims, including misinformation about the COVID-19 virus.

For example, in January 2020, the website published an article titled "First noticed correlation between 5G and a viral or bacterial mutation?!" ("Première corrélation repérée entre la 5G et une Mutation Virale ou Bactérienne ?!"), that falsely suggested that there is evidence of a link between 5G technology and the coronavirus. Indeed, LesMoutonsEnrages.fr was among the first sites to promote this claim — which has been widely shared by nationalist and conspiratorial sites — according to an investigation by First Draft, a nonprofit that fights misinformation.

"Could we already be facing the first case of a 'viral or bacterial mutation' due to the 5G roll-out?" the article asked. "I would not go as far as to overtly pretend that this is obvious, but the causal link seems to exist." ("pourrait-on déjà être devant une 1ère preuve d'un cas de 'Mutation Virale ou Bactérienne' dû au déploiement

de la 5G? ...je n'irais pas jusqu'à le prétendre ouvertement bien entendu, mais la causalité semble bel et bien là").

There is no evidence that 5G somehow causes the COVID-19 virus. A March 2020 report from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection found no evidence that 5G networks posed a risk to human health. Investigations into the claim by Reuters and FullFact.org also found no evidence to back the claim.

Asked about this article, a representative for the site, who identifies herself as "Voltigeur," told NewsGuard in an email: "When we talk about a health fact, I try to understand... Everyone interprets the data he or she has and shares them with the community for debate." ("Quand on parle beaucoup d'un fait sanitaire, j'essaie de comprendre. (...) Chacun interprète les données qu'il possède et les partage avec la communauté pour débat").

This article appeared in a section called Free Editorial (La Tribune Libre), with a note at the bottom stating: "Free editorial is a free speech zone for subscribers to ME," and that its content does not necessarily represent the views of the site. [LesMoutonsEnrages.fr]." ("La Tribune Libre est l'espace de libre expression des abonnés des ME. Son contenu n'engage pas le site des ME".

In February 2020, the site republished an article from French website Observateur Continental that claimed without evidence that a lab in Wuhan, China, created the virus in partnership with a lab in the U.S. "to develop weapons of biological warfare." The lab was "also working with an institute in Australia to genetically engineer the DNA of a super biological weapon," the article, which is labelled Opinion, among other tags, claimed. ("pour développer des armes de guerre biologique et que le laboratoire de Wuhan travaillait aussi avec un institut en Australie pour concevoir génétiquement l'ADN d'une super arme biologique.")

There is no evidence that the virus was artificially created or that it was part of a biological weapons program. A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” According to a February 2020 report by the World Health Organization, “increasing evidence demonstrates the link between the 2019-nCoV and other similar known coronaviruses (CoV) circulating in bats.” A study published the same month in *Nature* found that the virus is “96% identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

In March 2020, the site republished a *Mondialisation.ca* story titled “COVID-19 Coronavirus: A False Pandemic? Who is behind this? Global economic, social and geopolitical destabilization” (“Coronavirus COVID-19: Une fausse pandémie? Qui est derrière cela? Déstabilisation économique, sociale et géopolitique mondiale”). The article, which carries several labels, including Opinion, claimed that months before the coronavirus outbreak, in October 2019, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Economic Forum organized a “consciously designed simulation exercise of a coronavirus epidemic called nCoV-2019.” (“Un exercice de simulation consciencieusement élaboré d’une épidémie de coronavirus appelée nCoV-2019.”) The implication was that the foundation somehow anticipated or caused the outbreak.

It is true that the Gates Foundation and World Economic Forum participated in a simulated emergency preparedness exercise for a pandemic in October 2019. However, according to *FactCheck.org*, the exercise involved a mock coronavirus with different features than the current coronavirus. The co-organizers of the event did not refer to the fictional virus as nCoV-2019, contrary to the claim in the article.

Asked about the website's coverage of the Covid-19 outbreak, including the articles cited above, a representative for the site, who identifies herself as “Voltigeur”, told *NewsGuard* in an email: “These are opinion articles based on the geopolitical context, and they extrapolate motives that could allow for the

destabilization of a country that would become too big, and would endanger another's hegemony... It goes without saying that these opinions belong to their authors, are their sole responsibility, and that it is up to readers to make sense of things.” (“Ce sont des articles d'opinion qui se basent sur le contexte géopolitique et extrapolent sur les motivations, qui pourraient permettre de déstabiliser un pays qui prendrait trop d'ampleur, et mettrait en danger l'hégémonie d'un autre.... Il va de soi que ces opinions appartiennent à leurs auteurs, n'engagent qu'eux, et qu'il appartient aux lecteurs de faire la part des choses.”) (Under NewsGuard's standards, content that is labeled opinion can nevertheless be found to be false and misleading, if it includes false information.)

LesMoutonsEnrages.fr has also published multiple stories with misleading information about vaccines. For example, an October 2019 article suggested that vaccines are the “most likely” cause “of the alarming increase in chronic diseases” that are associated with autoimmune issues, citing as a source Kla.tv, a German-language site based in Switzerland. (“cause de l’augmentation alarmante des maladies chroniques”).

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said that multiple studies have found “no evidence to suggest a link between vaccines and autoimmune conditions,” and that there is no credible evidence to support the claim that vaccinations have made people more “susceptible” to autoimmune diseases. A March 2018 study published in the peer-reviewed Journal of the American Medical Association found that vaccines do not weaken a child’s immune system.

Asked about the site’s coverage of vaccines, Voltigeur told NewsGuard that “many doctors are against them. So we may consider that the scientific community is divided. In addition, health scandals involving labs don't help establish blind trust. Here, again, it is up to each person to reflect and make up his own mind”. (“À propos des vaccins, beaucoup de médecins sont contre (...) Donc on peut considérer que la communauté scientifique est partagée. De plus, les scandales

sanitaires impliquant des laboratoires, ne contribuent pas à instaurer une confiance aveugle. Là aussi, c'est à chacun réfléchir et de faire ses choix".)

Because LesMoutonsEnrages.fr has often published false or misleading health claims and other misinformation, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

Most stories on the site are tagged as opinion. On its Who We Are page, LesMoutonsEnrages.fr describes the site's opinionated nature, stating that "most articles are taken from the left and the right" and that its purpose is to "provoke controversy." ("la plupart des articles sont piochés à gauche et à droite" -- son but est de "provoquer la polémique"). Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that the site handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

LesMoutonsEnrages.fr does not publish corrections, and NewsGuard found only one correction published since 2019, which does not meet its standard for regularly publishing corrections..

Said Voltigeur: "If it turns out that an article is false, and it's reported to us, I don't hesitate to correct it and apologize. I don't have a recent example, but there are some on the blog". ("S'il s'avère qu'un article soit faux (sic), et qu'il soit signalé (sic), je n'hésite pas à rectifier et à m'excuser. Je n'ai pas d'exemple récent mais, il y en a sur le blog".)

Transparency

LesMoutonsEnrages.fr does not reveal any information about its ownership or editorial leadership.

Voltigeur told NewsGuard that the site's ownership is made public on WHOIS, a database of domain name registration records. However, when NewsGuard checked WHOIS records, the site's domain registration was protected by a privacy service.

The Who We Are page includes only the pseudonym for its main contributor, "Voltigeur," along with an email address. The site does not provide the real names or

other information about its content creators.

When asked about the site's lack of disclosure regarding its editorial leaders and content creators, Voltigeur said: "For me, I don't want to flaunt my life and my contact details on the web, it is a principle of protection [...] However, I'm not invisible, since you were able to reach me." ("Pour ma part, je ne désire pas étaler ma vie et mes coordonnées sur la toile, c'est un principe de protection (...) Mais je ne suis pas invisible pour autant, puisque vous avez pu me joindre.")

Advertising is distinguished from editorial content.

History

According to the site and media reports, "Voltigeur" and another contributor, identified only as "Benji," launched the site in 2011.

"Initially it was the two of us," Benji told French magazine L'Obs in a November 2016 article, "and some fans joined us over time, by choosing to participate in a blog whose editorial line was far from the 'mainstream' media since we have no constraints unlike journalists in general." ("Initialement nous étions deux" -- "et des passionnés nous ont rejoints au fil du temps, ayant décidé de participer à un blog dont la ligne éditoriale s'éloignait de la presse 'classique' puisque nous n'avons pas de contraintes comme c'est le cas pour les journalistes en général").

Benji died in December 2016, according to LesMoutonsEnrages.fr.

Correction: A previous version of this Nutrition Label incorrectly stated that Kla.tv is a German website. Kla.tv is a German-language website based in Switzerland. NewsGuard apologizes for the error.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on April 12, 2020, to add an example of the site's coronavirus coverage and to include comments from the site.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

Sources

Ownership and
Financing

<https://www.whois.net>

Content

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Credibility

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<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/history/hepb-faqs.html>

Référendum ADP qu'un million de signatures, il reste trois semaines ! SIGNEZ ET FAITES SIGNER..

<http://archive.md/BBSsy>

Une majorité de citoyennes et de citoyens le demandent : Retrait de la réforme Macron !

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Correction:

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Transparency

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History

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