

The website for Contro.tv, a video service that airs newscasts and republished videos that promote conspiracies and false claims.



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

Ownership and Financing

Contro.tv does not disclose its ownership. The website is registered using a service that keeps the registrant anonymous. Massimo Mazzucco, who has produced films about the Sept. 11 attacks, as well as films such as “Cancer: The Forbidden Cures,” is the main anchor of the website’s video newscasts.

Mazzucco owns Luogocomune.net, a website that has often published false information and conspiracy theories, particularly about the Sept. 11 attacks.

Contro.tv does not run advertising and is financed by subscriptions and donations.

Score: 7.5/100

- ✗ 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.](#)

Content

Contro.tv airs Italian news videos that are also published on its YouTube channel, including the channel’s own newscasts. Freelance video contributors also submit content, which Contro.tv editors say on a Guidelines page are reviewed before they are posted.

Most videos, including Contro.tv broadcasts, are available only to registered users.

Contro.tv does not sort content into subject categories. The site has three main sections: the live stream section with two channels, the show schedule, and the archive where video clips are available after they are streamed live.

Typical videos have run under headlines including “The Ministry of Truth” (“Il ministero della verità”); “CORONAVIRUS: it was the ‘bat’” (“CORONAVIRUS: è stato il ‘pipistrello’”); and “Contro TV: news of the week 30 Dec - 03 Jan. 2020” (“Contro TV: news della settimana 30 Dic - 03 Gen. 2020”).

Credibility

On a Guidelines page for contributors, Contro.tv says of its videos, “only materials with the following characteristics will be considered: non-amateur quality; clear counter-information interest; documented and verifiable factual statements.”

Despite that statement, the website regularly airs videos that promote discredited conspiracy theories and unproven medical and scientific claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a March 2020 original video, titled “CORONAVIRUS: it was the ‘bat’” (“CORONAVIRUS: è stato il ‘pipistrello’”) claimed that the COVID-19 virus could have been bioengineered by the U.S. Anchor Massimo Mazzucco asked in the video clip, “Was there an American hand that maybe left the bioengineered virus around in China?” (“Che ci sia stata una manina americana che magari ha lasciato il virus bioingegnerizzato in giro in Cina?”). He added that the arrival of the coronavirus helped the U.S. succeed in a plan to “thwart the Chinese economy with tariffs.” (“contrastare in tutti i modi l’economia cinese con le tariffe”).

There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus was engineered. A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. intelligence community said it “concur[s] with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.”

Another March 2020 video aired several false claims about the virus by Italian researcher Stefano Montanari. Montanari said in the video, “Healthy people suffer absolutely no harm from this virus” (“Le persone sane non subiscono assolutamente nessun danno da questo virus”), adding, “The virus mortality is very low, probably even non-existent” (“La mortalità da virus è bassissima, probabilmente addirittura inesistente”). Montanari, citing Italy’s National Institute of Health (ISS) as a source, also said that only three people had died of the COVID-19 virus in the country as of March 18, 2020.

The National Institute of Health never said that only three people had died of COVID-19 as of March 18. In a press release on that date, the institute’s president, Silvio Brusaferro, said that after looking at reports of the deaths of 2,003 people who died of COVID-19, the institute found that only three of those victims had no known previous health conditions. As of mid-May 2020, approximately 30,740 Italians had died as a result of the COVID-19 virus, according to the World Health Organization.

The World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among other agencies, have also said that while older people and people with underlying health conditions are more likely to get seriously ill from the virus, that otherwise healthy people of any age have also become ill.

A November 2019 video titled “Contro TV - Full episode 8 Nov. 2019” (“Contro TV – Puntata integrale 8 nov. 2019”) aired false information about the health effects of radiation and 5G technology. A Contro TV anchor said in the video, “we will be crossed from head to toe 24 hours a day by an electromagnetic bombardment that will affect the cells” (“Noi saremo attraversati da capo a piedi 24 ore su 24 da un bombardamento elettromagnetico che influenzerà le cellule”). The anchor added that exposure to 5G technology produces “not only the cancer but also “changes in brain functioning” (“non solo il cancro ma anche modificazioni del funzionamento del cervello”).

Multiple studies have not found that cell phone exposure causes cancer, and none have focused on the emerging 5G technology. The U.S. National Cancer Institute states on its website that “no consistent evidence for an association between any source of non-ionizing EMF and cancer has been found.” (Non-ionizing EMF is the type of electromagnetic radiation used by the 5G network.)

Contro.tv has also aired conspiracy theories about the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. For example, a November 2019 newscast titled “Mentana the problem is you, it's not us” (“Mentana il problema sei tu, non siamo noi”), criticized Enrico Mentana, Italian anchor of the news channel TG La7, and promoted the false claim that the World Trade Center collapsed as a result of a “controlled demolition,” after explosives were planted inside New York’s twin towers and caused them to collapse.

Several federal investigations, including a 2008 study by the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology, concluded that the World Trade Center towers collapsed after hijacked jets were flown into the two towers and caused fires that weakened the buildings’ structure. NIST also found that a third tower, 7 World Trade Center, collapsed for the same reason after debris from the trade center’s north tower damaged it.

Because Contro.tv regularly publishes false claims and conspiracy theories, NewsGuard has determined that the website repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid the use of deceptive headlines.

Contro.tv does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

Contro.tv does not acknowledge a political or ideological orientation and does not designate any videos as opinion. However, the service regularly includes

commentary in videos that report news, which is why NewsGuard has determined that the website does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

For example in a video published in May 2020 on the website, titled “Debunkers: there is mail for you” (“Debunkers: c’è posta per voi”), Mazzucco, the website’s main anchor, criticized the Italian Committee for the Control of Claims on Pseudosciences, saying that the organization’s article about the death of writer Giulietto Chiesa is “a post of a moral worthlessness that speaks for itself.” (“un post di una bassezza morale che si commenta da solo”).

An April 2020 video published on the website, headlined “The Truth Ministry” (“Il Ministero della Verità”), Mazzucco commented on a television show about disinformation broadcast by the Italian TV channel, La7: “This is not journalism [...] it is the hit and run of those who have nothing to say” (“questo non è giornalismo [...] è il mordi e fuggi di chi non ha niente da dire”).

NewsGuard’s two emailed messages sent through a contact form for the site, inquiring about its publication of false claims, lack of corrections, and mixing of opinion and news, did not receive a response.

Transparency

The site does not disclose its ownership or provide information about its editorial leadership or content creators.

Contro.tv’s Contacts (Contatti) page does not list an email address to contact the website. Users can use a web form to contact the site.

The site does not run advertisements.

NewsGuard did not receive a response to two messages sent through the website’s contact form, seeking comment on its lack of information about owners, editors, and content creators.

History

Contro.tv launched in October 2019.

Written by: [Angelo Paura](#)

Edited by: [Jim Warren](#), [Amy Westfeldt](#), [Virginia Padovese](#), [Giampiero Gramaglia](#)

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

Sources

Ownership and Financing	https://domainbigdata.com/contro.tv
Content	https://www.facebook.com/waswilartescrittura/videos/2601755560090801/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvDrRYvqBfo https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvOMLJ79zRw https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_phj3OFmzk
Credibility	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjbHh75tPms https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0820-9 https://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/item/2112-intelligence-community-statement-on-origins-of-covid-19 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_ub8R5l73w https://www.factcheck.org/2020/02/baseless-conspiracy-theories-claim-new-coronavirus-was-bioengineered/ https://www.independent.co.uk/infact/coronavirus-outbreak-conspiracy-theories-fake-news-china-wuhan-vaccine-a9308321.html#explainer-question-2 https://www.factcheck.org/2020/01/new-coronavirus-wasnt-predicted-in-simulation/ http://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/newsroom/center-news/2020-01-24-Statement-of-Clarification-Event201.html https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/ryanhatethis/qa-non-supporters-and-anti-vaxxers-are-spreading-a-hoax-that https://patents.justia.com/patent/10130701 https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/01/29/experts-debunk-fringe-theory-linking-chinas-coronavirus-weapons-research/ https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/radiation/electromagnetic-fields-fact-sheet#what-do-expert-organizations-conclude-about-the-cancer-risk-from-emfs https://www.pandoratv.it/contro-tv-puntata-integrale-8-nov-2019/ https://www.libreidee.org/2019/11/vaccini-luna-11-settembre-mentana-il-problema-sei-tu/ https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/journal-endorses-911-conspiracy-theory/ https://www.libreidee.org/2019/11/vaccini-luna-11-settembre-mentana-il-problema-sei-tu/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_phj3OFmzk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FFIPtRfbNY&fbclid=IwAR2Se3Afr-Bv73cLH3GbJq5Mth_HryBCWT3r9eEYCTfIW68br2bPzCzJrh0

Transparency <https://contro.tv/contact>
<https://contro.tv/terms-of-service>
<https://contro.tv/guidelines>

History <https://traterraecielo.live/2020/04/11/video-messaggio-urgente-da-parte-di-massimo-mazzucco-contro-la-imminente-censura-alla-liberta-di-opinione/>
<https://www.luogocomune.net/>
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