

fl24.net

A far-right website that injects opinion into news articles aggregated from other sources to advance its undisclosed anti-immigration, nationalist ideology.



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

Score: 39.5/100

Ownership and Financing

FL24.net, which is short for France Libre 24 (Free France 24), is owned by a group of Polish far-right activists with links to the right-wing Konfederacja party, according to a joint investigation by nonprofit EU DisinfoLab and Politico in January 2020. In the wake of the investigation, the site posted an article confirming that it is owned by a Polish company and funded by Polish investors, although it did not explicitly confirm its political agenda or that of its backers.

“We have found on our way friends of freedom and western civilization that support our initiative, because they share with us similar values and a similar attachment to freedom,” the site wrote. (“Nous avons trouvé sur notre chemin des amis de la liberté et de la civilisation occidentale qui soutiennent notre initiative, car ils partagent avec nous les mêmes valeurs et le même attachement à la liberté”)

FL24.net’s Facebook page indicates that it is run by three people in Poland and two in France.

The website runs advertising.

Content

In an article published in January 2020, the website describes itself as a “free information portal presenting the widest possible array of political, cultural and social news in France and worldwide, in a spirit of maximum free speech, refusing the constraints of political correctness.” (“un portail d’information libre présentant un spectre le plus varié possible de l’actualité politique, culturelle et sociale de France et du monde entier, dans un esprit de liberté d’expression maximum, et de refus du carcan politiquement correct”).

Content on the site is divided into sections including France, Justice, Insecurity (Insecurité), Economy (Economie), World (Monde), Culture, and People. Articles are typically based on content first published elsewhere, along with the site’s commentary.

Typical articles have run under headlines including “VIDEO. A psychiatrist clearly establishes a link between violence and immigration” (“VIDEO. Un psychiatre lie clairement violence et immigration”); “Hundreds of millions of Christians persecuted in the world: the scary statistics” (“Des centaines de millions de chrétiens persécutés dans le monde: les statistiques qui font peur”); and “Does Hidalgo think of herself as a Pharaoh? She wants 20-billion euros of constructions to house the Bohos” (“Hidalgo se prend-elle pour un pharaon? Elle veut des constructions pour 20 milliards d’euros pour loger les bobos”).

Many articles on FL24.net advance a far-right, anti-immigration, or anti-Islam perspective. Articles frequently take aim at politicians from the political left and center.

For example, a January 2020 article compared Paris’ Mayor Anne Hidalgo, a Socialist, to a “Pharaoh” who is promoting “Bolshevik” policies. An October 2019 article stated that centrist President Emmanuel Macron “sincerely believes in his nonsense for leftist teenagers about kindness and collaboration” (“il croit vraiment à ses âneries pour ados de gauche sur la bienveillance et le collaboratif”).

Credibility

FL24.net does not appear to conduct original reporting, typically inserting opinion into articles that were rewritten and aggregated from other media outlets, including Le Journal du Dimanche, Agence France-Presse, Le Figaro, and 20 Minutes. Sources are usually listed at the bottom of articles. Headlines, although often opinionated, generally



Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)



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.](#)

reflect the content accurately.

FL24.net does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

FL24.net does not disclose its anti-immigration, nationalist agenda and does not have a dedicated section for opinion. Nevertheless, news articles frequently include opinion.

For example, a January 2020 article titled “VIDEO. Larcher wakes up and goes strongly against Macron” (“VIDÉO. Larcher se réveille soudain et bastonne Macron”) stated: “Since he was named president of the Senate, we’ve barely heard Gérard Larcher. And it’s for the best, since he has very little to say.” (“Depuis qu’il a été nommé président du Sénat, on n’a pas beaucoup entendu Gérard Larcher. Ce qui n’était pas plus mal, puisqu’il n’a à peu près rien à dire”).

In another January 2020 article, titled “Sartre and Beauvoir: a couple of preying pedophiles” (“Sartre et Beauvoir: un couple de prédateurs pédophiles!”), the author stated: “On the left, Sartre is seen as a liberator. He was actually a predator.” (“À gauche, Sartre passe pour un libérateur. Mais c’était en réalité un prédateur”).

A third January 2020 article was titled “Against the opinion of French people, Macron-land imposes the return of jihadis to France” (“Contre l’avis des Français, la Macronie leur impose le retour des djihadistes en France”). The article stated: “The French are hurt and united in support of victims, not jihadis or their offspring, who also acted as executioners. Imposing their return is insulting the memory of victims.” (“Les Français sont meurtris et solidaires des victimes et pas des djihadistes ou de leurs rejetons, qui ont aussi joué les bourreaux. Imposer leur retour, c’est insulter la mémoire des victimes”).

None of these articles was labelled commentary.

Because FL24.net favors right-leaning causes in its news coverage without disclosing its orientation, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet its standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

FL24.net does not disclose that several of its Polish investors are active in Poland’s far-right politics and linked to the right-wing Konfederacja party, as EU DisinfoLab and Politico demonstrated. The politically one-sided and undisclosed funding of the work undermines the credibility of how the site chooses and reports stories. The misleading lack of disclosure and the site’s consistent practice of publishing news and opinion that favor the political goals of its backers has led NewsGuard to conclude that France Libre 24 does not gather and present information responsibly.

FL24.net did not respond to two NewsGuard emails requesting comment on the site’s editorial practices, its approach to corrections, and the mixing of news and opinion.

Transparency

The website does not disclose any information on its owners or editorial leaders.

Some articles include the name of the writer while others provide only initials. The site does not provide biographical or contact information for its content creators.

Readers can reach the website through a general email address listed at the bottom of the homepage. The site does not provide a phone number.

Advertising is distinguished from editorial content.

FL24.net did not respond to two emails requesting comment on the lack of disclosure about its owners, editorial leaders, and authors.

In the January 2020 article on the site published in the wake of the Politico article, the site addressed the lack of transparency regarding its staff, stating: “If we remain, for some of us, anonymous, it’s simply because we are taking risks in the face of Islamist terrorism and left-leaning violence.” (“Si nous restons, pour certains d’entre nous, anonymes, c’est tout simplement parce que nous prenons des risques face au terrorisme islamiste et à la violence gauchiste.”)

History

The website was launched in July 2019.

Written by: [Chine Labbe](#)
Edited by: [Eric Effron](#), [Yves Clarisse](#)

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

Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Content

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Credibility

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Transparency

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History

<https://fl24.net/2020/01/12/qui-sommes-nous-fl24-net-vous-devoile-tout/>

Dated content