

Task Force on Covid-19's fake news

A closer look

“Our first goal is to bring clean water to our viewers’ tap”.

RAI’s director of the all-news channel RAI News24, Antonio Di Bella, quotes this sentence from another great Italian journalist, Enzo Biagi, in order to highlight the spirit of the new Company’s structure to fight fake news, which he leads.

“This structure deals with fake news and inaccuracies about scientific information on the Corona virus, starting from the most urgent evidences for the public information.

We felt the need to gather around us a scientific committee of virologists, doctors and men of science, allowing us to evaluate from time to time the big amount of information on Covid-19 that each day arrive tumultuously on our desks”.

RAI News 24’s director tells he has asked the “willingness to collaborate with us to a number of leading personalities” and lets know he will be assisted, in the capacity of operational secretary, by Gerardo D’Amico, a journalist in charge of the scientific information in his channel.

“I already got in touch with all newsrooms and network operators to make sure that this group could always be available and works in synergy with all our colleagues dealing with scientific information either in tv programmes and on news.

It’s about putting together our knowledge in order to be the most sharp and reliable possible on this delicate and important subject for such a moment, fully respecting - as well - the professional autonomy, but with the aim to give a better service to our viewers, as Public Service Media.

The Structure’s work will be first applied on RAI3; this channel will broadcast one episode per week of the famous daily programme “Tutta salute” (All healthy), dedicated to Covid-19’s fake news in the scientific field. The programme will be realized with the collaboration of the most important RAI’s news channels.

“It’s a work in progress that started with the needs emerged once the Corona virus’ emergency became more and more alarming” - Mr. Di Bella points out.

“This work will be developed within the Task force - already operating in Rai - in order to support the concrete measures of health’s safeguard and tv schedule management, already in place in our Company, with an improvement and securing of the scientific information that, particularly at this stage, must absolutely be verified and reliable”.