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May 13, 2025 · 21 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1922229005396156534](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll introduce a Cypriot politician and social media personality, Fidias Panayiotou (@Fidiaso). He's best known for his clickbait YouTube stunts and for voting against aid to Ukraine and the return of abducted Ukrainian children from Russia.

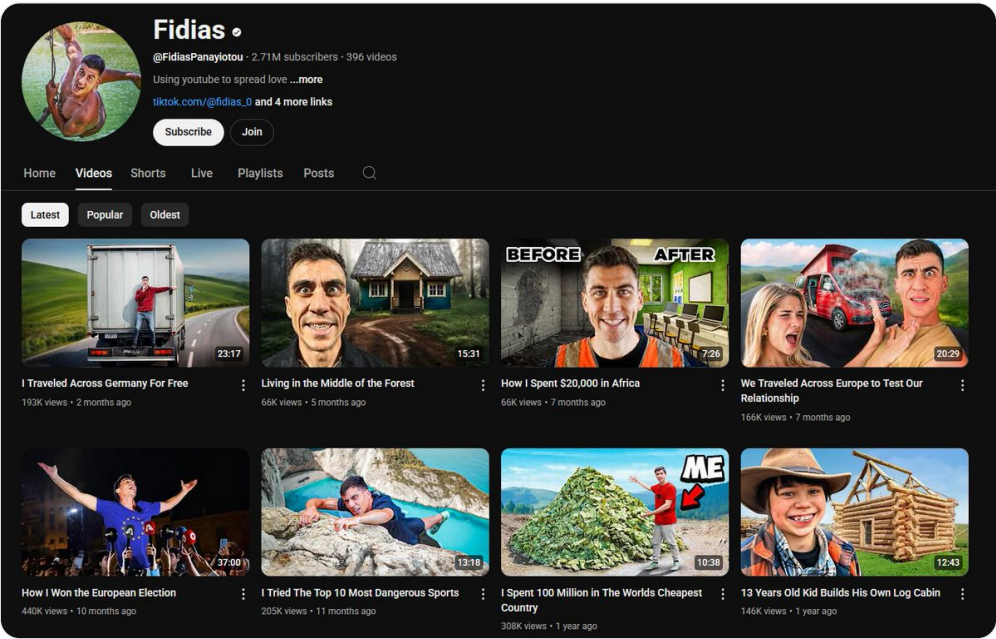
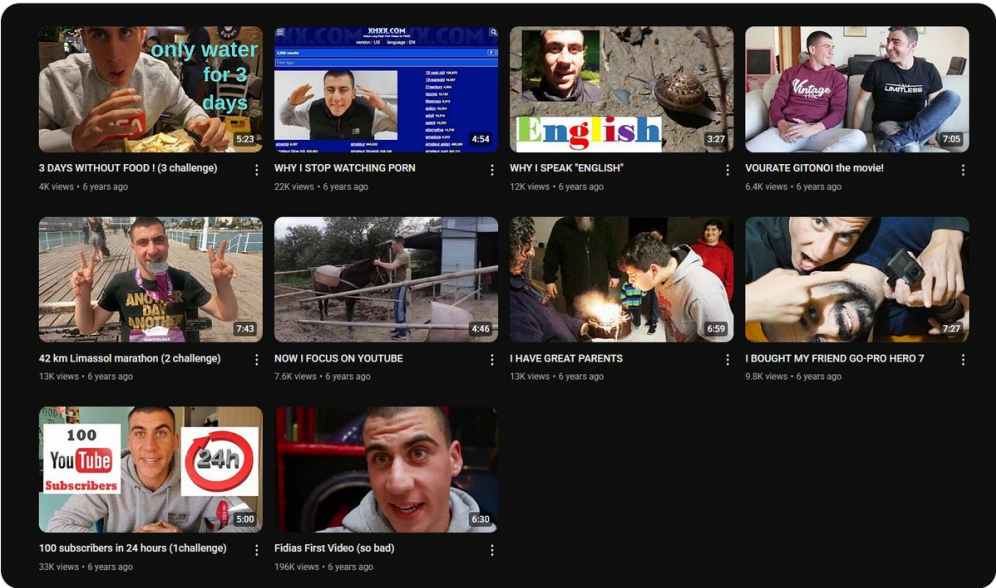
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Fidias hails from Meniko, Cyprus. In 2019, he began posting videos on YouTube. After a slow start, he found his niche with clickbaity, MrBeast-style content featuring silly stunts, catchy

titles and scripted dialogue. Today, Fidias has 2,7 million subscribers on YouTube.

2/20





Fidias's channel started with trend-riding, but he found his niche in traveling without money — aka freeloading. In one video, he fare-dodged on the Bengaluru Metro. The train authority responded by saying they would file a criminal case against him.

3/20

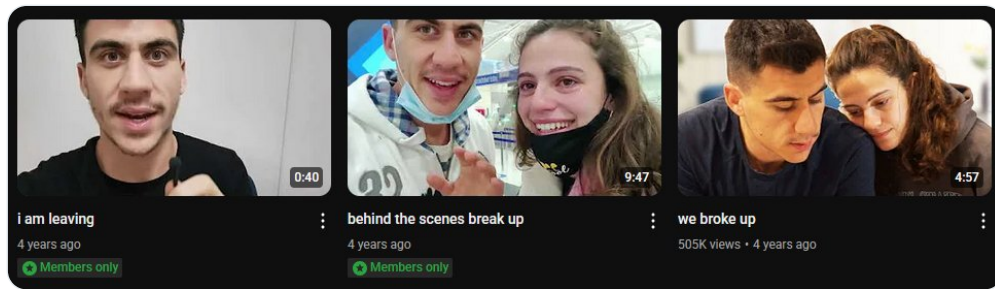




A month later, Fidias released a video of himself traveling across Japan by free—dodging fares, begging for cash, and sneaking hotel breakfasts. He faced heavy criticism and later posted — and then deleted — an apology.

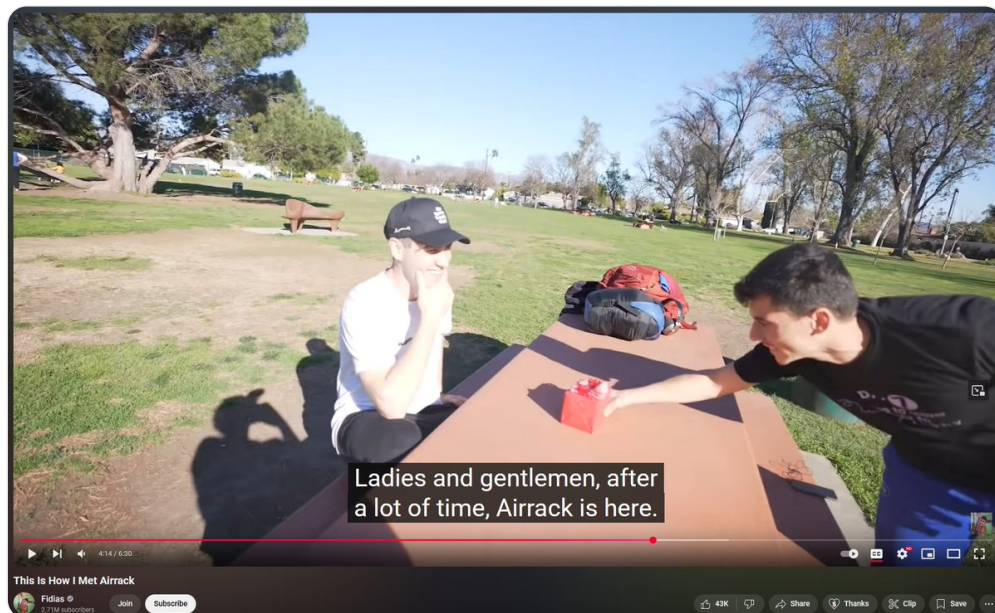


After breaking up with his girlfriend in 2021 — and making a 2-video publicity stunt about it — Fidias started working seriously on climbing the social media influencer ladder and becoming more famous. At this time, he also started heavily monetizing his channel.



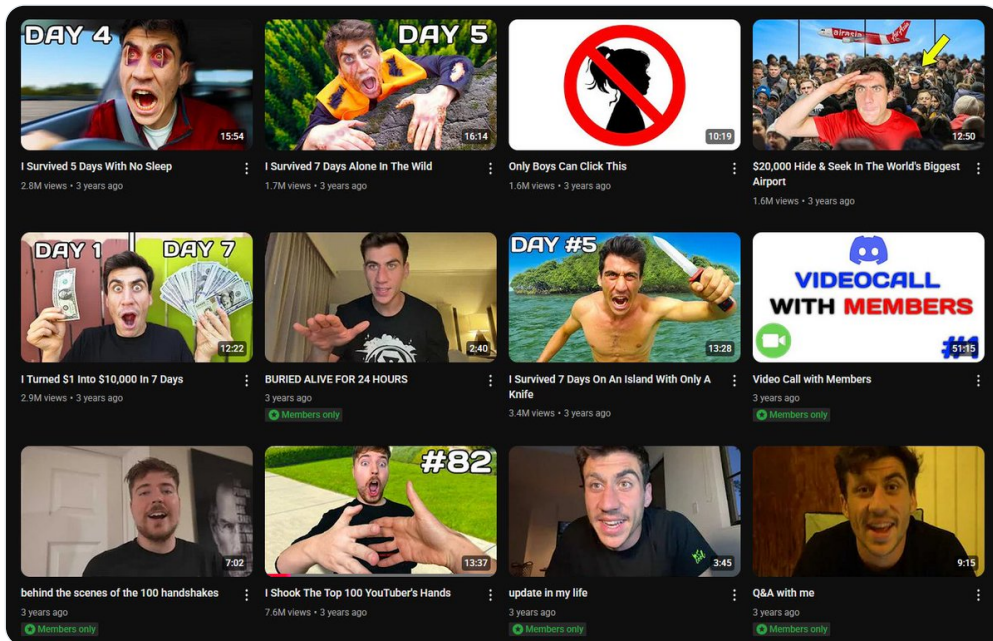
At this point, his strategy seemed to be clear: do collabs with bigger YouTubers and rising stars like Airrack, and do even more ridiculous, scripted stunts to grow the subscriber base. And to be fair, he wasn't all that bad at producing clickbait.

6/20



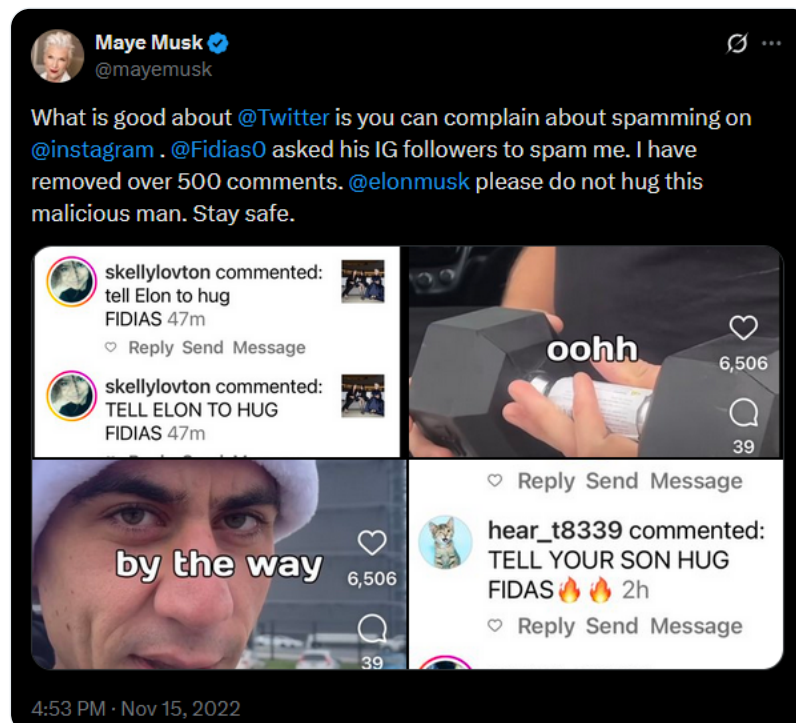
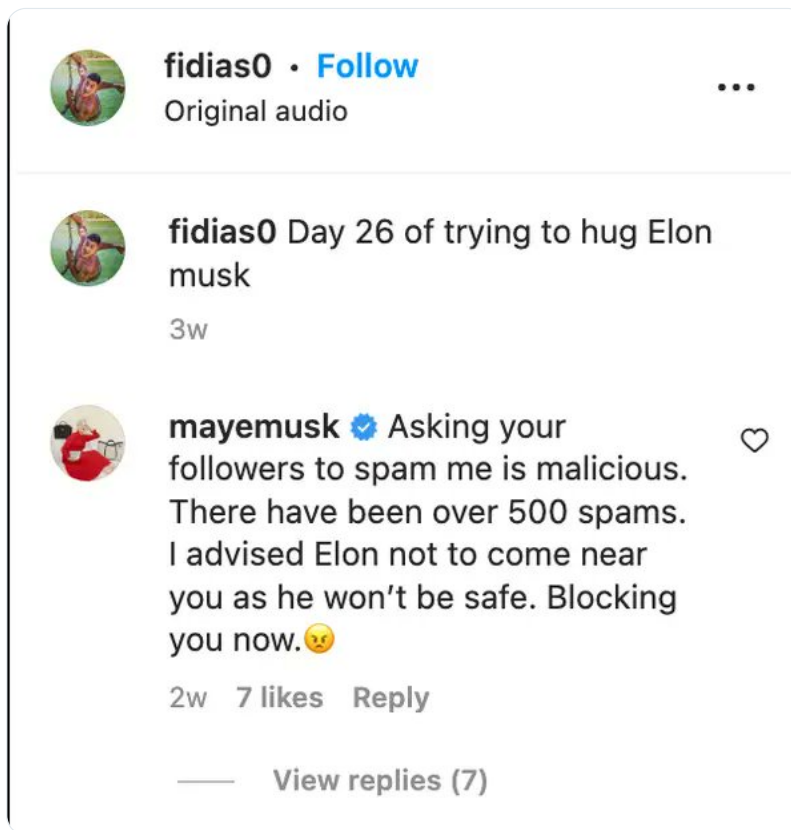
Fidas's big break came soon with "I Shook The Top 100 YouTubers' Hands," in which he shook the hand of world's biggest YouTuber, MrBeast. After this, both the production values and views of his videos skyrocketed, and he became a well known figure in the YouTuber scene.

7/20



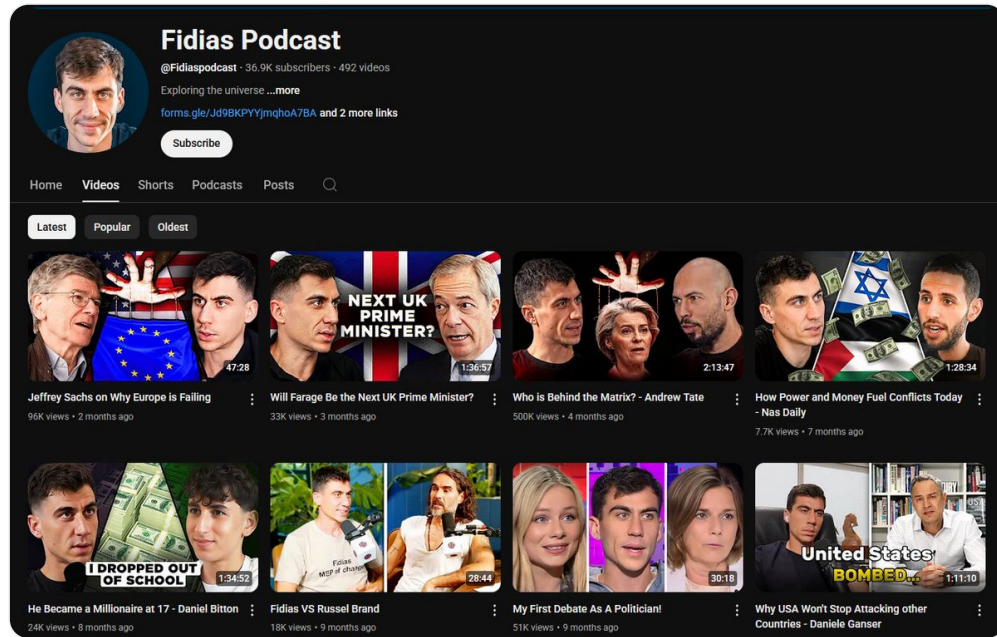
His most popular video with 15 million views is the one where he hugs the “world’s top 100 celebrities”. His final mission was to hug Elon Musk. He even called for his fans to spam Elon’s mother, Maye Musk, with the hug request. She called the campaign “malicious”.





At the same time, Fidias was cozying up to pro-Kremlin propagandists and likeminded grifters on his podcasts. He had extremely biased discussions with vatniks people like Russell Brand, Jeffrey Sachs, Nigel Farage and Andrew Tate.

9/20



In 2024, Fideas announced his run for the European Parliament on an anti-partisan platform. With no political background, he was seen as a novelty candidate — but quickly gained traction, especially among young voters, probably due to his YouTube fame.

10/20



Fidias campaigned on reforming education — calling to scrap exams and promote self-learning — while also backing AI and Bitcoin. He shocked many by finishing 3rd with 19,4% of the vote, topping the polls and winning a seat in the European Parliament.

11/20

BBC

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YouTube prankster voted in as Cyprus MEP

10 June 2024

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Vicky Wong
BBC News



A popular YouTuber from Cyprus has been elected as an independent MEP to the European Parliament.

Initially, he claimed to be running a “direct democracy platform” where he ran social media polls for his voting decisions. For example, he voted against Ursula van der Leyen remaining the president of the European Commission based on the results of a Twitter poll.

12/20



But not all votes were left to be decided by his fans. In July 2024, Fidiias abstained from a key vote reaffirming the EU's support for Ukraine — military, political, humanitarian, and diplomatic. His stance raised eyebrows across the Parliament.



Georgiou votes against EU Ukraine resolution, Fidias abstains



Akel's Giorgos Georgiou

Akel's Giorgos Georgiou voted against the European Parliament's resolution for continued support for Ukraine, while independent member of the European Parliament Fidias Panayiotou abstained on the motion.

In Feb 2025, Fidias posted a video titled “How the US forced Russia to invade Ukraine,” featuring Jeffrey Sachs. Sachs, who recently spoke at the European Parliament, blamed the war entirely on the West and NATO, while absolving Russia of any responsibility.



On May 8, 2025, yet again without a poll, Fidias voted against an EU resolution condemning Russia for abducting Ukrainian children. The motion called for their immediate return & accountability under international law. Only 2 other MEPs opposed it.

Return of Ukrainian children forcibly transferred and deported by Russia

May 8, 2025 · RC-B10-0249/2025 · Proposition de résolution (ensemble du texte)

👍 93%

For: 516. Against: 3. Abstentions: 34. In total, 553 MEPs voted. 166 MEPs didn't vote.

MEPs Political Groups Countries

Filter by name

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Fidas PANAYIOTOU

Non-attached · Cyprus



Friedrich PÜRNER

Non-attached · Germany



Petar VOLGIN

ESN · Bulgaria



The next day, Fidas visited Moscow for Russia's Victory Day, claiming his trip was about "dialogue and peace." During the visit, he met with the chairman of the State Duma. He didn't mention whether Russia's war crimes and bombing of civilians in Ukraine were discussed.





Russian House Speaker Threatens to 'Take Back' Alaska

July 7, 2022



State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin speaks during the closing plenary meeting of the spring session of the Russian State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament.

Russian State Duma Press Service/TASS

The speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament [threatened](#) Wednesday to "claim back" Alaska if the United States froze or seized Russian assets as punishment for its invasion of Ukraine.

"Let America always remember: there's a piece of territory, Alaska," Vyacheslav Volodin said at the last session of parliament, the State Duma, before it goes on summer break.

"When they try to manage our resources abroad, let them think before they act that we, too, have something to take back," Volodin said.

He noted that deputy speaker Pyotr Tolstoy had proposed holding a referendum among Alaskans to join Russia.

WAR

2 killed, 12 injured in Russian attacks on Ukraine despite declared 'ceasefire'

May 9, 2025 3:30 pm • 2 min read



Tim Zadorozhnyy



Damage following a Russian attack on Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Oblast on May 8, 2025. (Ivan Fedorov / Telegram)

At least two people were killed and 12 injured in Russian attacks across Ukraine over the past day, regional officials reported on May 9, despite Moscow's announced Victory Day truce.

Although Moscow [declared](#) on April 28 that it would halt all military actions from May 8 to midnight on May 11 to mark [Victory Day](#), strikes on civilian areas have continued.

In [Kharkiv Oblast](#), five people were injured in attacks involving FPV drones and artillery, Governor [Oleh Syniehubov](#) said.

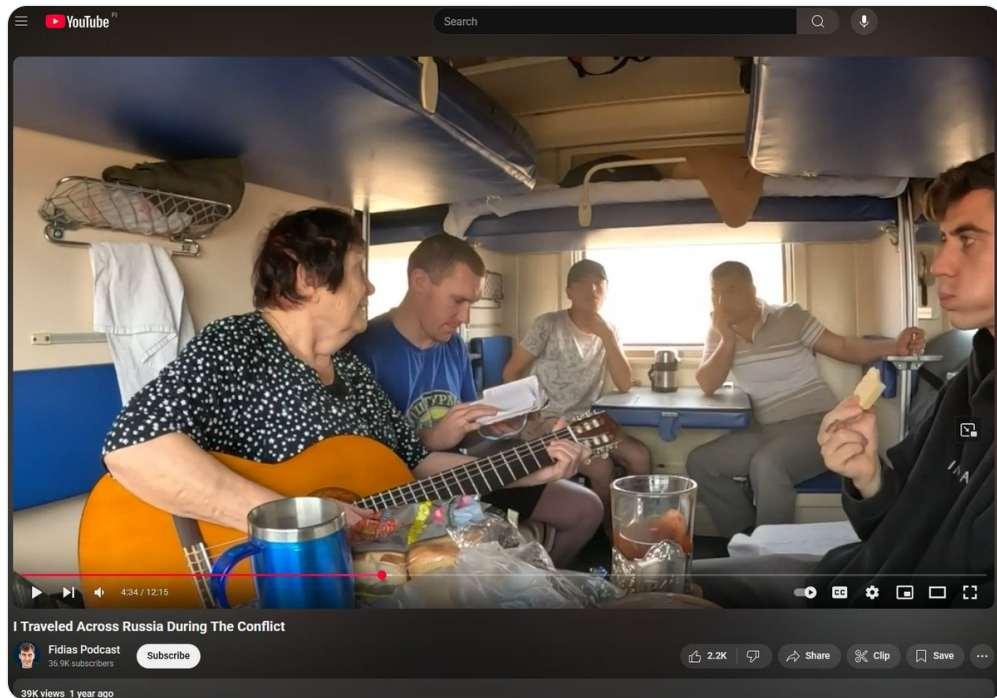
Russian attacks in [Kherson Oblast](#) killed one person and wounded another, Governor [Oleksandr Prokudin](#) said. The attacks damaged a residential apartment building and three houses in the region's settlements.

A woman was killed in a Russian [attack](#) in [Zaporizhzhia Oblast](#), while two others were injured in a separate strike involving a first-person-view (FPV) drone, the regional military administration [reported](#).

Fidias plays the classic “peacenik” role — claiming that if we just stop sending military aid to Ukraine, Russia will magically end its invasion. It's a delusional take that ignores reality and whitewashes Russia's long-standing imperial ambitions and aggression.



And as always, Fidiias avoids talking about Russia. He's made cozy travel vlogs there, but steers clear of politics. Instead, he blames the EU — while pushing his “direct democracy for the people” gimmick, conveniently skipping polls on anything involving Russia & the war.



Fidias' anti-EU stance is also echoed by his old friend and hug buddy, Elon Musk. They've shared views on tech moderation and online "freedom," and at one point, Elon even called for making Fidias the "EU President." You can't make this shit up.

NEWS > POLITICS

Elon Musk's man in the European Parliament

Independent MEP Fidias Panayiotou met the billionaire in 2023 and has taken his line on some big political issues, from Ukraine to digital rules.

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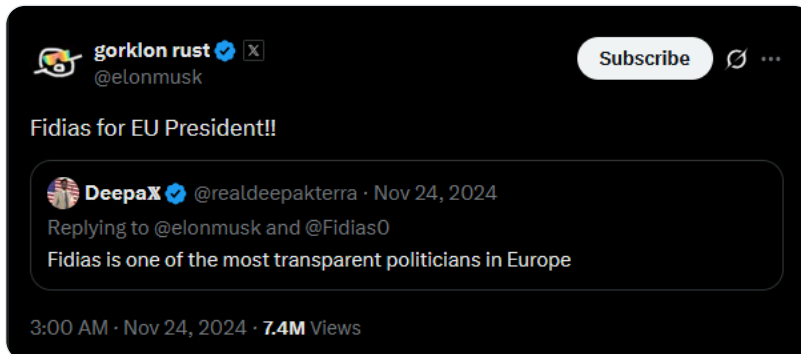
POLITICO PRO

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Musk frequently reposts Panayiotou's videos to his 211 million X platform followers, greatly expanding the young lawmaker's reach. | Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

JANUARY 10, 2025 4:20 AM CET
BY MAX GRIERA AND ELIZA GKITSI



To conclude, Fidiás is a social climber with a broken moral compass. He's inserted himself into serious geopolitical issues — and for some reason, has chosen to simp for Russia while pushing the absurd narrative that the entire conflict is the West's fault.



The 2nd edition of “Vatnik Soup — The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation” is officially out!

You can order your copy here:

