

Question for written answer E-003271/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Christine Anderson (ESN)

Subject: Spillover effect of the Digital Services Act (DSA) into non-EU countries

On 25 July 2025, the US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee published its interim staff report entitled ‘The Foreign Censorship Threat: How the European Union’s Digital Services Act Compels Global Censorship and Infringes on American Free Speech’¹. The report argues that the DSA, by classifying ‘disinformation’, ‘hate speech’ and even memes and satire as systemic risks, puts pressure on very large online platforms to adjust their global terms of service. As most platforms apply uniform rules worldwide (e.g. via global terms of service), this leads to a spillover effect that restricts speech in jurisdictions where such content is entirely lawful, including the United States under the First Amendment.

In this light:

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that DSA enforcement creates a spillover effect by influencing how platforms moderate speech outside the EU, including in the United States?
2. Has the Commission ever (either individually or more broadly, via legal guidance) instructed or encouraged platforms to extend DSA-based rules beyond EU territory, knowing that they apply global terms of service?
3. What safeguards will the Commission adopt to ensure that EU regulatory practice does not effectively impose EU speech restrictions on non-EU legal systems?

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¹ <https://judiciary.house.gov/media/press-releases/foreign-censorship-threat-how-european-unions-digital-services-act-compels>.