

**Question for written answer E-003303/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: US government lobbying campaign to eliminate the Digital Services Act as a censorship tool

On 7 August 2025, Reuters reported on an instruction signed by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio directing US representations in Europe to convince EU governments and competent authorities to repeal or amend the Digital Services Act. More specifically, the definition of ‘illegal content’ should be narrower in order not to restrict freedom of expression, including in political and religious discourse. In addition, the Code of Practice on Disinformation should be amended or withdrawn, as it sets out ‘excessive controls’ as regards content. Other criticisms relate to the high penalties and the system of so-called trusted flaggers, i.e. state-designated organisations that report illegal content.¹

As a matter of principle, all efforts that lead to the abolition or at least a substantial relaxation of the Digital Services Act, which, under the guise of fighting disinformation, is being misused as an ideologically motivated censorship tool to suppress unwelcome opinions in the digital space, should be supported. However, it is more than worrying that support from abroad seems necessary to potentially regain the right to free speech and persuade the Commission to back down.

1. What is the Commission’s response to the US government’s lobbying campaign to abolish the Digital Services Act?
2. Under what circumstances would the Commission be prepared to agree to the abolition or at least to a substantial relaxation of the Digital Services Act?

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¹ <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/society-equity/rubio-orders-us-diplomats-launch-lobbying-blitz-against-europes-tech-law-2025-08-07/>