

Question for written answer E-003513/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Erik Kaliňák (NI)

Subject: The Digital Services Act (DSA) as a tool to silence opponents

The DSA, which is being pushed by the Commission, is an authoritarian tool for suppressing freedom of expression and democracy. Under the pretext of combating ‘disinformation’ and ‘hate speech’, platforms are being forced to impose censorship – including shadow-banning and monitoring – on the basis of such vaguely defined concepts. Moreover, this censorship is one-sided, disproportionately targeting conservative views. An example of this is labelling statements such as ‘we need to take back our country’ as illegal hate speech¹.

The DSA is incompatible with freedom of expression² as it forces platforms to self-censor, weakens democracy and, above all, gives the Commission sweeping powers to impose worldwide censorship without any judicial oversight³. The Commission is thus building a control system that threatens citizens’ freedoms.

In light of the foregoing:

1. How does the Commission plan to prevent abuse of the DSA for the targeted censorship of conservative views and political criticism?
2. What measures will the Commission adopt to ensure transparency and to protect freedom of expression from the threats of shadow-bans and restrictions on the basis of vaguely defined concepts?
3. How does the Commission view criticism of the DSA that portrays it as a threat to democracy and freedom of expression?

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

² <https://www.reuters.com/technology/eu-content-law-incompatible-with-us-free-speech-tradition-says-fccs-carr-2025-03-03/>

³ <https://ppc.land/house-committee-exposes-how-eus-dsa-targets-american-political-speech/>