Question for written answer E-003616/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Classification of political expressions and satire under the Digital Services Act

Recent reports indicate that, during a closed workshop in May 2025, the Commission allegedly classified the phrase ‘we need to take back our country’ as illegal hate speech, despite its widespread use across the political spectrum in the United States. The workshop reportedly also addressed humour, satire and memes, including how content moderation could apply to materials expressing political opinions or questioning those in power. One non-governmental organisation reportedly advocated for the removal of all content deemed harmful or hateful.

In the light of the above:

1. Has the phrase ‘we need to take back our country’ ever been formally regarded as hate speech, and if so, on what basis was that assessment made?

2. How does the Digital Services Act safeguard lawful political expression, including satire and humour, and what is the role of trusted flaggers in this regard?

3. Can the Commission clarify the objectives, organisers, participants and agenda of the May 2025 workshop, and whether its discussions influenced guidance to platforms?

Submitted: 18.9.2025