

**Question for written answer E-004541/2025**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Bartłomiej Sienkiewicz (PPE)**

**Subject:** European Democracy Shield and the status of Telegram under the Digital Services Act (DSA)

The Commission presented measures to strengthen democratic resilience and counter disinformation as part of the European Democracy Shield. However, it is disappointing that no mention was made of Telegram despite its role in spreading pro-Russian disinformation and facilitating espionage, terrorist and criminal activities, and drug trafficking.

Although more than a year has passed since the Commission's Joint Research Centre started its investigation to determine the actual number of Telegram users in the EU, this figure has still not been published. In August 2025, Telegram reaffirmed that it had fewer than 45 million users in the EU, exempting it from the stricter DSA obligations, although independent estimates put that number at over 60 million. Such discrepancies and delays in the investigation are unacceptable.

I therefore ask:

1. When will we find out the results of the investigation and the decision on the possible classification of Telegram as a very large online platform (VLOP)?
2. Is the Commission considering measures to oblige Telegram to cooperate with national authorities and ensure the transparency of algorithms?
3. Taking into account that Article 51(3) of the DSA provides for temporarily blocking a service only as a last resort, once other actions have been exhausted or when serious harm has been found, and that Telegram is not classed as a VLOP and is not subject to the DSA's full obligations, which makes applying Article 51(3) to this service difficult, will the Commission allow Member States to unilaterally decide to temporarily block Telegram in the EU and which legal provision would form the basis of the Commission's opinion on this?

Submitted: 13.11.2025