

**Question for written answer E-005041/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Christine Anderson (ESN)

Subject: Criteria for triggering EU-level action under the Digital Services Act in cases of alleged electoral interference

In the plenary debate on the European Democracy Shield on 18 December 2025, Commissioner McGrath referred to ‘evidence before our eyes’ of foreign interference in elections, including in Romania. The Commission has since opened formal proceedings under the Digital Services Act (DSA) concerning ‘systemic risks linked to election integrity’ in the Romanian presidential elections. By contrast, in the case of the arrest of Telegram founder Pavel Durov, the Commission has stated, in its reply to written question E-003878/2025¹ and through its spokespeople, that the matter is purely national and is unrelated to the DSA.

1. Given that both situations involve the alleged misuse of online communications during electoral periods, can the Commission specify the objective criteria it applies to determine when alleged interference triggers EU-level DSA enforcement, and when it does not?
2. Does the Commission maintain a written methodology for assessing when an electoral context constitutes a ‘systemic risk’ under Articles 34-35 DSA, and will it publish this to ensure legal certainty?
3. How does the Commission ensure consistency and avoid politically sensitive or platform-size-based discretion in deciding which cases merit EU-level intervention?

Submitted: 21.12.2025

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-003878_EN.html