Question for written answer E-004284/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Christine Anderson (ESN)

Subject: Competitive and innovation effects of extending the Digital Services Act obligations to shared AI infrastructure

The Commission confirmed in its answer to Written Question E-003506/2026[1] that systemic risk assessments under the Digital Services Act must cover algorithmic systems used by designated very large online search engines (VLSOEs), even when those systems are also used for other functionalities.

This interpretation may affect providers' decisions on whether to integrate online search into general-purpose AI assistants or maintain separate technical infrastructures.

1. Has the Commission assessed the compliance costs and competitive implications of applying VLOSE obligations to algorithmic systems shared with non-designated AI functionalities, particularly for smaller providers and new market entrants?

2. Does the Commission recognise that such obligations may create incentives to separate search functionalities from general-purpose AI assistants and has it assessed the potential effects on innovation, interoperability and market entry?

3. How will the Commission ensure that its application of Articles 34 and 35 of the Digital Services Act remains technologically neutral and that it does not unnecessarily disadvantage the providers of integrated AI architectures compared with providers that use technically separate search and conversational systems?

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[1] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-003506-ASW_EN.html.