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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.1.2025)

The Commission focuses its attention on e-commerce within the single market to boost innovation and growth.

The Digital Services Act (DSA)¹ establishes consistent rules for online platforms to reduce barriers on e-commerce among Member States. The DSA is without prejudice to EU law on consumer protection. The DSA harmonises due diligence obligations applicable to providers of intermediary services, which facilitates cross-border trade. All online intermediaries in the single market have to comply with rules aiming to counter the spread of illegal content or products online, helping ensure traceability of third-party sellers on online marketplaces and compliance with pre-contractual information and product safety information requirements.

The E-commerce Directive² prohibits Member States from placing restrictions on cross-border information society services. The Commission may initiate infringement proceedings and it is also working to facilitate notification of ad hoc restrictive measures pursuant to Article 3(4) of the Directive.

The Geo-blocking Regulation³ aims to eliminate obstacles to cross-border online trade by prohibiting unjustified geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or establishment within the EU.

The NIS2 Directive⁴ requires providers of online marketplaces to implement cybersecurity risk-management measures and the Cyber resilience act⁵ requires manufacturers to provide sufficient information to customers about the cybersecurity of their products.

The Commission will take action in this mandate to tackle further challenges with e-commerce platforms, notably to protect consumers and ensure they benefit from a level playing field.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC.

² Directive 2000/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2000 on certain legal aspects of information society services, in particular electronic commerce, in the Internal Market ('Directive on electronic commerce').

³ Regulation (EU) 2018/302 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 February 2018 on addressing unjustified geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market and amending Regulations (EC) No 2006/2004 and (EU) 2017/2394 and Directive 2009/22/EC.

⁴ Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 and Directive (EU) 2018/1972, and repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148 (NIS 2 Directive).

⁵ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/10/10/cyber-resilience-act-council-adopts-new-law-on-security-requirements-for-digital-products/>