

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002707/24
to the Commission
Christel Schaldemose (S&D)
(1 December 2024)**

Subject: Digital Services Act

A number of European children's and youth organisations are finding that they either cannot be designated as trusted flaggers or are unable to start working as trusted flaggers. This is either because national authorities have not yet granted them trusted flagger status or because they lack guidelines from the Commission so that they can begin what is crucial and essential work under the Digital Services Act (DSA).

1. Does the Commission find it acceptable that all these children's and youth organisations cannot begin their work, which is clearly described in the DSA?
2. Can the Commission say when the guidelines that a number of organisations point out are missing will be published so that they can begin their work?
3. What is the Commission's position on the fact that the DSA came into force in February, but several parts of it do not appear to have been fully implemented?

Submitted: 1.12.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(28 January 2025)**

The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ entered into full application on 17 February 2024. The Member States were obliged to designate and empower their national Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs) by that date. It is those DSCs that are tasked with awarding the status of trusted flagger to applicants that meet the conditions of Article 22 DSA.

It is of utmost importance for the Commission that the implementation of the DSA is completed as soon as possible. Significant resources are dedicated to support this objective, allowing the Commission to issue the necessary secondary legislation ⁽²⁾, issue guidelines where needed ⁽³⁾, and work efficiently with the European Board for Digital Services (the Board) ⁽⁴⁾.

Unfortunately, not all Member States designated and empowered their DSCs by 17 February 2024. As of 9 January 2025, the Commission therefore initiated 13 infringement procedures ⁽⁵⁾ against Member States that failed to do so ⁽⁶⁾.

Only once DSCs have been designated and empowered, can they award the trusted flagger status to eligible entities which can benefit from priority treatment of their notices by online platforms.

While guidelines on trusted flaggers are not a requirement for DSCs to assign that status to eligible entities, the Commission is currently preparing such guidelines. The guidelines will be subject to public consultation in due course, after consulting the Board ⁽⁷⁾.

As of 19 December 2024, 15 trusted flaggers were listed on the dedicated website ⁽⁸⁾ of the Commission, including entities dedicated to the protection of minors.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj>

⁽²⁾ See, for example, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/implementing-regulation-laying-down-templates-concerning-transparency-reporting-obligations> or https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13817-Delegated-Regulation-on-data-access-provided-for-in-the-Digital-Services-Act_en

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_1707 or <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-launches-call-evidence-guidelines-protection-minors-online-under-digital-services-act>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-board-working-groups>

⁽⁵⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-calls-cyprus-czechia-estonia-poland-portugal-and-slovakia-designate-and-fully-empower> and <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-calls-6-member-states-comply-eu-digital-services-act>

⁽⁶⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-dscs>

⁽⁷⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-board>

⁽⁸⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/trusted-flaggers-under-dsa>