

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002914/24
to the Commission
Christel Schaldemose (S&D), Stine Bosse (Renew)
(12 December 2024)**

Subject: Google and edited media content

Google has stated ⁽¹⁾ that some Danes' access to Danish news is going to be blocked. At an extremely challenging time when it comes to mis- and disinformation, it is particularly serious when Google, as a dominant player, suddenly and unilaterally blocks citizens' access to trustworthy content. Google's dominance extends to between 92% and 97% of the Danish search engines market. Google's action shows just how much control the tech companies wield over our information flows.

1. What will the Commission do to ensure citizens' access to trustworthy information in the face of conduct/interference by dominant players?
2. Does the Commission regard Google's conduct as helpful or harmful in combating mis- and disinformation?

Submitted: 12.12.2024

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

Regarding the questions of the Honourable Member, the Commission refers to the answer given to Written Question E-002915/2024.

'The Commission is aware that Google had launched a temporary test, removing EU press publishers' content from its services for 1% of users in eight Member States, including Denmark.

The test ended on the 4 February 2025. The Commission considers that Google is entitled to conduct a time-limited test affecting a small part of users, provided it complies with obligations under applicable EU law.'

The answer provided to Written Question E-002915/2024 also pointed to the comprehensive set of EU legal tools to safeguard the flow of information in the internal market. The Commission will apply these rules, where relevant together with Member States.

In particular, the Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ includes a risk mitigation framework that specifically covers systemic risks for election integrity and civic discourse.

In February 2025, the Commission and the European Board for Digital Services endorsed the official integration of the voluntary Code of Practice on Disinformation ('the Code') ⁽²⁾ into the framework of the DSA.

Full adherence to the Code may be considered as an appropriate risk mitigation measure for signatories designated as very large online platforms (VLOPs) and search engines (VLOSEs) under the DSA.

The Code aims to combat disinformation risks, including to the civic discourse and electoral processes, while fully upholding the freedom of expression and enhancing transparency. Google is a signatory to specific elements of the Code.

¹ <https://blog.google/around-the-globe/google-europe/more-data-about-news-results-eu/>

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065, OJ L 277.

⁽²⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/code-conduct-disinformation>