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E-000110/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.3.2025)

The Code of Practice on Disinformation¹ is a robust set of commitments and detailed measures to fight disinformation while respecting freedom of expression - agreed upon by online platforms, search engines, the advertising industry, fact-checkers, researchers and civil society organisations. Following the signatories' willingness to have the Code integrated into the Digital Services Act (DSA) framework², the Board³ and the Commission assessed the Code, concluding it meets the conditions for codes of conduct under the DSA⁴.

In practice the Code can become a significant and meaningful benchmark for determining compliance with the DSA for those providers of very large online platforms and very large online search engines that adhere to and comply with its commitments.

Meta subscribes to most commitments on fact-checking under the Code. Meta's recent announced changes related to their United States third-party fact-checking program currently do not apply in the EU.

The Commission considers fact-checking an effective means to mitigate risks linked to disinformation⁵. Independent, impartial fact-checking can significantly contribute to identifying and addressing risks linked to the dissemination of disinformation, negative effects on civic discourse and electoral integrity, while respecting freedom of expression. However, Article 35 of the DSA does not prescribe specific mitigation measures; other measures could also mitigate relevant systemic risks provided they are reasonable, proportionate and effective.

Meta's announced changes to their hate speech policy and political content control do apply globally. The Commission has received related *ad hoc* risk assessment reports and currently reviews them. Meta must report on its content moderation resources in its transparency reports every six months⁶.

¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/code-practice-disinformation>

² 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 (Digital Services Act).

³ European Board for Digital Services.

⁴ Article 45(1) and (3). Both positive assessments can be found here: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/code-conduct-disinformation>

⁵ Guidelines on the mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024XC03014&qid=1714466886277>

⁶ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-brings-transparency>