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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.5.2025)

The Digital Services Act (DSA)¹ aims to contribute to a safe, predictable and trusted online environment that facilitates innovation, and in which fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter², including the freedom of expression, are effectively protected. The DSA defines the responsibilities of providers of online platforms and specifically helps prevent the over-removal of lawful content, thereby protecting the freedom of expression. It does not regulate content, nor state whether content is illegal. The DSA ensures that EU citizens know when and why providers of online platforms remove content. This is critical because almost all content removals online are based on private rules set by those providers.

Further, the DSA requires providers of platforms designated as very large online platforms (VLOPs), including X, to have adequate measures in place to address potential systemic risks stemming from their services. These risks include for example dissemination of illegal content, such as child sexual abuse material, or negative effects on civic discourse and electoral processes. VLOPs providers should also analyse aspects such as whether and how these risks are influenced by an intentional manipulation of their service, such as the use of bots or fake accounts. When designing mitigation measures, those providers must consider the protection of fundamental rights, including the freedom of expression.

Any enforcement steps taken, including the additional investigatory measures on 17 January 2025, in relation to the risk assessment framework under the DSA were not triggered in reaction to any specific event, such as the livestream interview referred to in the question. These measures were part of compliance monitoring work under the DSA.

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

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng