

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000840/25
to the Commission
Laura Ballarín Cereza (S&D)
(25 February 2025)**

Subject: Danger to democracy posed by the new European digital regulatory approach

The European Union is facing a crucial moment in its regulation of big technology companies. The owners of X and Meta are leading the main opposition to our digital legislation, attacking European sovereignty and threatening our democracies. Despite this, the European Commission's response has been, on the one hand, to indicate that it will reassess its investigations into large platforms and, on the other hand, to withdraw legislative proposals to regulate them.

The withdrawal — under the pretext of stimulating investment — of its proposed Directive on Liability for AI, designed to make technology companies pay for any damage caused by AI tools or systems, sends out the dangerous message that European digital regulation is a bargaining chip in the new international arena.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission considering reassessing the investigations into large digital platforms and their compliance with the Digital Services Act?
2. Does the Commission plan to change its regulatory approach to the digital domain under the announced digital package, and if so, how?
3. How does the Commission plan to ensure compliance with and legal certainty of European digital laws with the new digital package?

Submitted: 25.2.2025

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

The Commission is committed to ensuring enforcement and implementation of digital legislation including the Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ and Digital Markets Act (DMA) ⁽²⁾.

The Commission monitors DSA compliance of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs) ⁽³⁾ and has provided guidance on its application in the context of elections ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission also monitors the DMA aiming to achieving its full potential: contestable markets, more space for innovation and broader consumer choice. On 23 April 2025, the Commission found that Apple breached its DMA anti-steering obligation, and that Meta breached the DMA obligation to give consumers the choice of a service that uses less of their personal data. Therefore, the Commission fined Apple and Meta with EUR 500 million and EUR 200 million respectively.

The Commission is committed to delivering on the simplification agenda to support EU competitiveness ⁽⁵⁾, including simplification measures related to the digital policy *acquis* which will be put forward by the end of the year. This will notably include simplifying the cybersecurity legislation and streamlining existing data rules.

In this context, the Commission will assess how the digital *acquis* reflects the needs and constraints of businesses, not least small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and mid-caps. The focus of the Commission will be on cutting red tape, while continuing to enforce its platform rules and EU policy objectives.

Additionally, the Commission has reviewed all pending proposals and identified the proposal for an Artificial Intelligence Liability Directive ⁽⁶⁾ as unlikely to progress. It is therefore on the list of draft laws the Commission plans to withdraw ⁽⁷⁾ awaiting guidance from the co-legislators.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R2065>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022R1925>.

⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses>.

⁽⁴⁾ The Commission has published guidelines for providers of VLOPs and VLOSEs on the mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/guidelines-providers-vlops-and-vloses-mitigation-systemic-risks-electoral-processes>.

⁽⁵⁾ As announced in the communication on implementation and simplification, 'A simpler and faster Europe'

https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/8556fc33-48a3-4a96-94e8-8ecacef1ea18_en?filename=250201_Simplification_Communication_en.pdf.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0496>.

⁽⁷⁾ 7617998c-86e6-4a74-b33c-249e8a7938cd_en.