

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000900/25
to the Commission
Jacek Ozdoba (ECR)
(4 March 2025)**

Subject: Freedom of speech and the Commission's actions against the X platform

One of the core values on which the EU was founded is freedom. This is understood to mean not only the right to move freely within the EU, but also individual freedoms such as respect for private life, freedom of religion, thought, expression and assembly, as well as free access to information.

The EU has recently been attempting to introduce provisions aimed at controlling the activities of tech giants, including through the Digital Services Act (DSA). This act introduces rules for moderating online platforms, enabling the Commission to interfere in the activities of companies such as X (formerly Twitter).

Among other things, such actions have led to a dispute between Elon Musk (owner of the X platform) and EU officials, the details of which have been repeatedly reported on by the media.

In connection with the above, would the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does the Commission intend to take further steps against the X platform?
2. What is the relationship between EU citizens' free access to information and the actions taken by the Commission amounting to the possible interference with content posted on, for example, the X platform?
3. Will the actions taken in the above case not have an adverse impact on EU-US relations, especially in the light of the statement made by Vice-President J.D. Vance on this matter?

Submitted: 4.3.2025

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

Freedom of expression and information is a pillar of democracy and protected under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU ⁽¹⁾. The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽²⁾ helps create a safer digital space where fundamental rights are protected online.

The DSA defines the responsibilities of online platforms operating in the EU regardless of its origin and makes sure that EU citizens know when and why online platforms remove content via statements of reasons. These need to be submitted by platforms to the DSA Transparency Database ⁽³⁾.

This is particularly important because almost all content removals online are done based on private rules set by online platforms. The DSA also helps keep EU citizens and minors safe from illegal content, such as child sexual abuse material and terrorist content.

The Commission is investigating X ⁽⁴⁾ for suspected breaches of, *inter alia*, the systemic risk provisions of the DSA ⁽⁵⁾. Providers of designated platforms have to diligently identify, analyse and assess various systemic risks and put in place effective mitigation measures.

The current investigations against X include risks linked to civic discourse and electoral processes in the EU, including those related to its algorithmic systems ⁽⁶⁾.

The Commission ordered X ⁽⁷⁾ to retain internal documents and information regarding future changes to the design and functioning of its recommender algorithms, while also requesting internal documentation relating to past changes.

The Commission also ordered access to certain technical interfaces (APIs) to allow direct fact-finding on content moderation and virality of accounts.

⁽¹⁾ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391-407.

⁽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), OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1-102.

⁽³⁾ <https://transparency.dsa.ec.europa.eu/>

⁽⁴⁾ Designated as a very large online platform under the DSA.

⁽⁵⁾ Including amongst others Article 34(1) and (2) and 35(1).

⁽⁶⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses>

⁽⁷⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-addresses-additional-investigatory-measures-x-ongoing-proceedings-under-digital-services>

These measures will allow the Commission to take all relevant facts into account in the assessment under the DSA of systemic risks and their mitigation.
