

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001044/25
to the Commission
Kosma Złotowski (ECR)
(11 March 2025)**

Subject: Announcement of a ‘round table’ on the elections in Poland organised by the Commission

A statement made by Commission Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen regarding plans to organise a ‘round table’ on the presidential elections in Poland has raised a number of concerns. The responsibility for organising the electoral process lies exclusively with the national authorities and, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the EU must not take action unless it is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level. This suggests that the Commission takes the view that Poland is not capable of organising elections in line with democratic standards.

1. How does the Commission characterise the holding of a ‘round table’ concerning the monitoring of the organisation and conduct of the presidential elections in Poland in May 2025, and what measures are planned in this regard?
2. What format will the meetings planned as part of the ‘round table’ take, who will participate in them, what will be the criteria for inviting stakeholders to participate, and will documentation from these meetings be produced and made available for review?
3. Has the Commission ever undertaken similar activities falling under the concept of ‘round table’ in the context of democratic elections in Member States, and in particular in connection with recent elections in Europe: in Belgium in June 2024, in France in June and July 2024, in Romania in November and December 2024, in Croatia at the turn of 2024/2025, and in Germany in February 2025?

Submitted: 11.3.2025

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

The conduct and the organisation of elections are the competence and responsibility of the Member States, in accordance with their national constitutional and legislative rules, while respecting their international obligations and EU law.

The Digital Services Act (DSA ⁽¹⁾) requires providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs) to assess and mitigate systemic risks linked to electoral processes and civic discourse while protecting fundamental rights, including the freedom of expression ⁽²⁾. The Commission issued guidelines for VLOPs and VLOSEs on the mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes, which recommend different options for mitigation measures ⁽³⁾.

The Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs) coordinate work at national level with the aim of ensuring compliance with the DSA, including during electoral periods. The European Board for Digital Services, composed of the DSCs, compiled a DSA Elections Toolkit ⁽⁴⁾ aiming to support DSCs in this task. DSCs can namely organise election roundtables to facilitate information sharing between relevant stakeholders such as online platforms and civil society organisations. If requested by the DSCs, the Commission may provide support in this exercise, as it did ahead a number of recent national elections. These roundtables are not public and it is for the DSCs to decide and communicate on what was discussed or who participated.

The Commission has so far not received any request from the Polish DSC and is therefore currently not involved in a potential roundtable in Poland.

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

⁽²⁾ Articles 34 and 35 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024XC03014&qid=1714466886277>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/dsa-elections-toolkit-digital-services-coordinators>.