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E-001868/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.6.2025)

The Commission has published two calls for expression of interest^{1 2} with the aim of reaching 202 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) by the end of 2025³. Their selection was done in compliance with the standard eligibility criteria⁴, according to the selection criteria specified in the calls.

The staff working document published on 30 June 2024⁵ contains the overview of costs to be incurred in 2025 to be covered by the supervisory fee pursuant to Article 43 of the Digital Services Act (DSA)⁶. The total costs for human resources in 2025 are estimated at EUR 29,21 million. This includes existing staff working on the DSA. Such costs are covered by external assigned revenues stemming from the supervisory fees charged in 2024 by the Commission on providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and of very large online search engines (VLOSEs), in line with Article 43 of the DSA. By 31 March of each year, the Commission reports in transparency to the European Parliament and the Council on FTEs and annual costs incurred for human resources in the previous year.

The DSA aims to ensure that fundamental rights of users are protected online. The DSA does not regulate content nor individual content moderation decisions⁷. Rather, the DSA defines providers of online platforms' responsibilities and mechanisms to mitigate risks, including preventing over-removal of lawful content.

All decisions taken by the Commission under the DSA can be challenged in front of the Court of Justice of the European Union. Those taken at national level are subject to oversight in the respective legal systems in the Member States. The Commission is bound by the Charter of Fundamental Rights⁸ to respect the rights, freedoms and principles, including that of freedom of expression and information.

¹ Call of 18 June 2024 for 27 staff: https://eu-careers.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu_vacancies/2024-06/Vacancy%20notice%20CA%20FGIV%20EC%20Representations%20%20DSA.pdf.

² Call of 11 April 2025 for 60 staff: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/join-digital-services-act-enforcement-team>.

³ SWD(2024) 167: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/overview-elements-accounted-estimation-amount-external-assigned-revenues-stemming-supervisory-fee>.

⁴ Article 82 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union (CEOS): https://eu-careers.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents//general/conditions_of_employment_of_other_servants/en_rules_ca_comm_en.pdf.

⁵ SWD(2024) 167: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/overview-elements-accounted-estimation-amount-external-assigned-revenues-stemming-supervisory-fee>.

⁶ 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>.

⁷ That is a matter for specific laws and the courts to determine, same as for offline content.

⁸ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391-407: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.