

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002118/25
to the Commission
Tom Vandendriessche (P/E)
(27 May 2025)**

Subject: Digital censorship and content removal by Meta in the EU

Over the last few years, a number of citizens and movements in the EU have reported that social media pages have been unilaterally removed or blocked by large tech concerns, including Meta (Facebook/Instagram). In many instances, that is done with no clear statement of reasons, in an untransparent process and with no scope for redress.

Recently, a Flemish activist publicly shared that Meta removed not only the main communication page of his group (which has more than 40 000 followers), but also a separate page given over to recreational nature walks in Flanders.

In view of this:

What does the Commission think about the increasing reports of content removal and page blocking by Meta in the EU, especially when such action appears to be targeted at particular ideological or political opinions?

Submitted: 27.5.2025

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

The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ contributes to a safe, predictable and trusted online environment, in which fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter, ⁽²⁾ are effectively protected.

The DSA protects with robust safeguards freedom of expression ensuring that EU citizens are informed about when and why online platforms providers remove content.

According to the DSA, providers like Meta must include information on any restrictions imposed in relation to the use of the relevant service in their terms and conditions.

Under that provision, the relevant providers are required to *inter alia* explain their content moderation rules and enforce any restriction rules diligently, objectively, and proportionately, with due regard to the rights and legitimate interests of all parties involved, including the fundamental rights of the recipients of the service and other fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter. ⁽³⁾

In addition, providers are required to provide clear and specific reasons for their content moderation decisions and must submit these statements and decisions to the Commission, so that they can be included in a publicly accessible transparency database. ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾

These obligations ensure that service's recipients have the means to challenge content moderation decisions. Moreover, providers of online platforms are required to establish an effective internal complaint-handling system allowing recipients to lodge complaints, in case they disagree with a content moderation decision. ⁽⁶⁾

As part of the DSA investigation against Meta ⁽⁷⁾, the Commission is examining whether recipients in the EU have access to an effective internal complaint-handling system.

⁽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 L277/1. (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>).

⁽²⁾ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, OJ C326/391. (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng).

⁽³⁾ Article 14 DSA.

⁽⁴⁾ Articles 17 and 24(5) DSA.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://transparency.dsa.ec.europa.eu/>.

⁽⁶⁾ Article 20 DSA.

⁽⁷⁾ On 30 April 2024 <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses#ecl-inpage-metaplatforms>.