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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.8.2025)

The Digital Services Act (DSA)¹ obliges providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and of very large online search engines (VLOSEs), such as Google Search, to identify, assess, and analyse the systemic risks stemming from their services and its related systems, including algorithmic systems. Providers of VLOPs and VLOSEs are then required to put in place reasonable, proportionate and effective mitigation measures, tailored to the identified systemic risks, including (but not limited to) testing and adapting their algorithmic systems and adapting the design, features or functioning of their services. Under the DSA, risk assessments must be conducted on an annual basis and in any event prior to deploying functionalities that are likely to have a critical impact on the systemic risks identified.

Since the designation of Google Search as VLOSE, the Commission has been diligently enforcing the DSA against the provider of Google Search. The Commission sent two requests for information to the provider of Google Search concerning the VLOSE. The first one concerned data access for researchers and the second one, Google's assessment and mitigations for risks linked to generative AI, such as 'hallucinations', the viral dissemination of deepfakes, as well as the automated manipulation of services that can mislead voters².

Prior to the launch of AI Overviews in the EU, the provider of Google Search submitted an ad-hoc risk assessment to the Commission, which is currently under review. The Commission will continue to monitor the situation as part of its ongoing compliance assessment under the DSA and will not hesitate to use its enforcement powers under the DSA if evidence of non-compliance is found.

¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-services-act-package>.

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses#ecl-inpage-google>.