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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.8.2025)

The Digital Services Act¹ (DSA) does not regulate speech. The DSA is content-agnostic, and the Commission and Member States as regulators have no power to moderate content or to impose any specific approach to moderation. The substantive rules on unlawful speech or other illegal content are established in other pieces of national or EU legislation.

The DSA aims to contribute to a safe, predictable and trusted online environment that facilitates innovation, and in which fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, including the freedom of expression, are effectively protected. The DSA regulates processes and responsibilities for the providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs) and requires they assess – and if needed mitigate – the possible systemic risks that could stem from their services.

The DSA explicitly protects freedom of expression and protects users in the EU against over-removal of lawful content. The DSA created a set of redress mechanisms for users: when platforms take decisions affecting online content: when platforms remove or demote content, they must inform the user that posted the content, explain why they took the decision, and offer the opportunity to challenge it.

The Commission is continuously monitoring the compliance of all VLOPs and VLOSEs with the DSA. The Commission has opened an investigation against Meta (the provider of Facebook and Instagram) in April 2024 because of its suspicion that Meta does not offer the required transparency and redress obligations when it comes to its ‘political content approach’, as well as Meta’s obligations to assess and mitigate risks to civic discourse and electoral processes.²

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

² Commission opens formal proceedings under DSA
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2373.