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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.9.2025)

Under Article 40 of the Digital Services Act (DSA)¹, providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and of very large online search engines (VLOSEs) are required to give access to data to researchers meeting a set of conditions for the sole purposes of conducting research on systemic risks in the EU and, under additional conditions, assessing risk mitigation measures. Access to data by researchers is key to ensure accountability and public scrutiny of providers of VLOPs and VLOSEs and for bridging information asymmetries and establishing a resilient system of risk mitigation.

The recently published delegated act on data access² supplements the DSA and displays the technical conditions and harmonises the procedures for the management of the data access process. Moreover, it sets out which information Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs), VLOPs and VLOSEs must make public to facilitate vetted researchers' applications to access relevant datasets.

The Commission is diligently enforcing Article 40 DSA and has initiated proceedings pursuant to Article 66(1) DSA against six providers of VLOPs for their compliance with Article 40(12) DSA³. The Commission sent preliminary findings to the provider of X pursuant to Article 73(2) DSA on 12 July 2024⁴ where the Commission took the preliminary view that that provider was in breach of Article 40(12) DSA.

This enforcement has already had positive results and on 18 June 2025 the Commission has accepted AliExpress' commitments pursuant to Article 71(1) DSA to enable independent access of public data via automated means, to maintain a dedicated Application Programming Interface, to provide customised datasets and to maintain a webpage providing relevant information on data access to researchers⁵.

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

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/delegated-act-data-access-under-digital-services-act-dsa>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-sends-preliminary-findings-x-breach-digital-services-act>.

⁵ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-makes-aliexpress-commitments-under-digital-services-act-binding>.