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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU follows a multi-faceted approach to countering threats related to disinformation that fully upholds the freedom of expression. Next to regulatory and co-regulatory measures, this includes support for media literacy, strategic communication, and support for research.

The European External Action Service (EEAS) through its relevant Task Forces monitors foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) activities, including disinformation¹. FIMI has been used by some third countries and their proxies to manipulate and interfere with democratic processes and societies. In this context, patterns of inauthentic behaviour, such as the impersonation of media outlets or institutions, can indicate intentional actions. In designing its strategic communication, the Commission follows closely the methodologies of the EEAS's investigations into FIMI.

The Digital Services Act (DSA)² is content-agnostic, and the Commission and Member States as regulators do not moderate content or impose any specific approach to moderation. The DSA aims to contribute to an online environment that protects efficiently fundamental rights, including the freedom of expression. The DSA regulates 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 users against over-removal of lawful content through a set of redress mechanisms: when platforms take decisions affecting online content, they must inform the affected user, explain the decision, and offer the opportunity to challenge it.

¹ For more information, see Learn - EUvsDisinfo <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/learn/>.

² 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).