

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003486/25
to the Commission
Fernand Kartheiser (NI)
(9 September 2025)**

Subject: Impact of the Digital Services Act on EU-US relations

Following the 3 September 2025 hearing before the US House of Representatives' House Judiciary Committee, chaired by Congressman Jim Jordan, which scrutinised the EU's Digital Services Act (DSA) as a potential threat to free speech and technical innovation in the US, concerns have arisen regarding the DSA's impact on EU-US relations.

In the light of these developments, and given the DSA's provisions affecting non-EU companies that have EU users, I would like to ask the Commission:

1. The extraterritorial provisions of the DSA could damage relations with non-EU countries such as the United States, rendering an already difficult international context even more challenging for the EU. Does the Commission envisage removing the most contentious parts of the DSA (regarding censorship and extraterritoriality) to facilitate better relations with non-EU countries?
2. During the hearing, claims from Brussels that the DSA is not extraterritorial were contradicted by assertions that the EU is seeking to integrate the DSA into trade negotiations with Canada. Is this correct?
3. Mr Thierry Breton, former Commissioner for Internal Market, chose not to attend the hearing despite being invited to do so. Did the Commission play any role in Mr Breton's decision not to attend?

Submitted: 9.9.2025

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

The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ is an EU law that applies solely within the EU and does not have extraterritorial effects. The Commission enforces EU laws effectively, fairly and without discrimination towards all companies operating in the EU. Any measures taken by the Commission are subject to independent judicial scrutiny.

The DSA promotes and protects freedom of expression. Nothing in the DSA obliges online intermediaries to remove lawful content nor stipulate if content is or not lawful. The DSA makes online platforms accountable to citizens, including by mandating transparency around content moderation, and by granting appeal rights.

The EU and Canada exchange information about their respective sovereign approaches to a range of digital matters under the EU-Canada Digital Partnership, including regulation of platforms. The DSA is not part of trade negotiations.

The Commission has requested approval from the Council to launch negotiations for a digital trade agreement with Canada, but the digital trade disciplines that are envisaged will not include any commitments regarding the DSA. To the contrary, the EU will seek to reconfirm in the agreement- in line with its other digital trade agreements — the parties' right to regulate within their territories to achieve legitimate policy objectives.

With his letter of 28 August 2025, published on X ⁽²⁾, the former Commissioner for Internal Market informed the Chairman of the Committee on the judiciary that he would not be able to participate at a hearing on 3 September 2025, being not available on that date given the very short notice.

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

⁽²⁾ <https://x.com/ThierryBreton/status/1961143710306927053>.