

EN

E-003513/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.11.2025)

The Commission categorically rejects any accusation of censorship.

The Digital Services Act¹ (DSA) is content agnostic. The substantive rules determining the legality of content are not contained in the DSA, but in other pieces of national or, exceptionally, EU legislation. The DSA does not empower the Commission, nor the national competent authorities (e.g. the Digital Service Coordinators), to moderate content or to order the take down of content. Nor are they ever required under the DSA to take a position on whether any specific piece of content or expression is legal². Rather, the DSA seeks to ensure transparency in the content moderation policies of intermediary services providers so that service recipients can better exercise their rights online, including their right to free expression.

The over-removal of lawful content by online platforms infringes the DSA. To protect freedom of expression, the DSA introduced a range of redress and transparency mechanisms, such as the obligation for online platforms to inform all affected users of content moderation decisions with a clear and specific statement of reasons and to provide them with opportunities to challenge content moderation decisions. Therefore, online platforms are prevented from shadow banning their recipients' content under the DSA.

Based on service providers' transparency reports, the Commission is glad to note that these mechanisms have already led to the reinstatement of millions of pieces of content previously removed in error. As such, the DSA contributes to a safe, predictable and trusted online environment in which fundamental rights⁶ are effectively protected.

The Commission will continue to monitor compliance with the DSA to ensure that this remains the case.

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

² Please see the answer to parliamentary question E-3616/25.