

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003643/25
to the Commission
Petra Steger (Pfe), Mary Khan (ESN)
(20 September 2025)**

Subject: Follow-up question to P-002815/2025 on a possible softening of EU digital rules as part of an agreement with the USA

On 18 August 2025, Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen replied to my question for written answer P-002815/2025 ⁽¹⁾ on a possible softening of EU digital rules as part of an agreement with the USA (tabled on 10 July 2025). While the second and third questions have remained completely unanswered, the answer to the first is contradictory and misleading.

Contrary to Ms Virkkunen's statement, numerous reports from renowned media show that the EU digital acts — the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA) — have been repeatedly raised in the context of trade talks with the US and explicitly mentioned by US counterparts as an obstacle to trade. Even if the Commission has ruled out the idea of formally amending or abolishing these acts, there is no denying that they have been raised during the discussions and were part of the negotiation dynamics ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾.

1. Why is the Commission denying that the EU digital acts were raised during the trade talks and were part of the negotiation dynamics?
2. Does it believe that the general tariff for EU goods might have been lower if a further debate on EU digital rules had been allowed?
3. Was the idea of setting up a joint committee to give US tech companies a say in the application of market rules discussed during the trade talks?

Submitted: 20.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(13 November 2025)**

The Joint Statement on an EU-United States (US) framework on an agreement on reciprocal, fair and balanced trade covers a broad set of commitments and cooperative actions, including in the digital domain.

The Joint Statement ⁽¹⁾ commits the parties to address unjustified digital trade barriers. The EU also confirms there will be no adoption of network usage fees, and both the EU and the US express a joint commitment not to impose customs duties on electronic transmissions and to seek a permanent moratorium at the World Trade Organisation on customs duties on electronic transmissions.

The EU and the US will now engage in work to implement the various aspects of the Joint Statement. In this context, the Commission has repeatedly affirmed, including the President of the Commission in the 2025 State of the Union address, that EU digital regulations are a sovereign matter and not an issue for trade negotiations.

EU digital laws and regulations, including the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act, are enforced fairly, without discrimination, and are subject to independent judicial scrutiny.

There is no basis for the suggestion that the outcome on goods tariffs in the EU-US negotiations that resulted in the Joint Statement depended on an exchange of views on the EU's digital rules and regulations.

There have been no discussions on any kind of joint committee that would give US tech companies a role in applying market rules.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-002815_EN.html

² <https://www.wsj.com/economy/trade/u-s-eu-near-deal-on-non-tariff-trade-irritants-455c42f1>

³ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-08-17/eu-us-trade-statement-held-up-over-digital-laws-ft-says>

⁴ <https://www.handelsblatt.com/politik/international/handel-streit-ueber-digitalgesetze-verzoegert-abkommen-von-eu-und-usa/100148820.html>

⁽¹⁾ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/joint-statement-united-states-european-union-framework-agreement-reciprocal-fair-and-balanced-trade-2025-08-21_en.