

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.1.2026)

Telegram has reported that it remains below 45 million average monthly active recipients (AMARs) in the EU, the threshold set out in Article 33(1) of the Digital Services Act (DSA)¹ for designation of services as very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs). The Commission monitors the figures published by providers of those services, sends requests for information, and, where the aforementioned threshold is reached, designates them as VLOPs and VLOSEs in accordance with Article 33(4) DSA². The Commission is monitoring the evolution of Telegram's AMARs in the EU.

Telegram has not been designated as a VLOP, but it must already comply, for the features of the service falling within the scope of the DSA, with the applicable obligations under the DSA to ensure a safe, predictable and trusted online environment. Since the provider of Telegram has appointed its legal representative in Belgium, the Belgian Digital Services Coordinator (DSC)³, i.e. the 'Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications', is competent for supervising Telegram's compliance with the DSA⁴.

DSCs can, in respect of providers of intermediary services falling within their competence, where all other powers to bring cessation of an infringement causing serious harm have been exhausted without that infringement having been remedied, and where the management body of the provider has not adopted the necessary measures to terminate the infringement, request that the competent judicial authority of its Member State order the temporary restriction of access of recipients to the service or, where that is not technically feasible, to the online interface of the provider of intermediary services on which an infringement takes place.

¹ 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), OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1-102.

² Pursuant to Article 33(4) DSA, the Commission may designate a service, on the basis of self-reported data or information requested pursuant to Article 24(3) DSA or any other information available to the Commission.

³ More information on the role of Digital Services Coordinators can be found on: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-dscs>.

⁴ Pursuant to Article 3(n) DSA, the Digital Services Coordinator of establishment encompasses the Digital Services Coordinator of the Member State where the legal representative of the provider of an intermediary service is established.