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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.1.2026)

The Digital Services Act (DSA) establishes a harmonised framework for tackling illegal content online and contributes to a safe online environment, in which fundamental rights, including freedom of expression and information, are protected.

The DSA is technologically neutral and does not require the use of specific technical solutions, such as artificial intelligence.

Article 23 of the DSA requires online platform providers to take appropriate and proportionate measures against individuals or entities that frequently submit manifestly unfounded notices. These measures may include the suspension of the processing of notices submitted by such recipients, in accordance with the conditions set out in that Article.

As regards trusted flaggers, Article 22 of the DSA provides that trusted flagger status, awarded by Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs), is conditional upon demonstrating expertise and competence and carrying out activities diligently, accurately and objectively. Trusted flaggers are required to publish annual reports on the notices categorised by recipients, type of allegedly illegal content notified, and action taken by service providers. DSCs are required to monitor compliance by trusted flaggers. Service providers are required to notify DSCs when a trusted flagger submits a significant number of insufficiently precise, inaccurate or inadequately substantiated notices. Trusted flagger status must be suspended or revoked by the competent DSC where the conditions laid down in Article 22 are no longer met.

These provisions establish safeguards which limit abuse of reporting mechanisms and ensure that decisions on illegal content are taken in a transparent, effective and rights-respecting manner.