

EN

E-005040/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.2.2026)

The Digital Services Act (DSA)¹ aims to create a safer online environment where fundamental rights, including freedom of expression and information, are protected.

In the logic of the DSA, recommender systems are responsible for suggesting, ranking and prioritising information. They have a significant impact on the ability of recipients to retrieve and interact with information online, including to facilitate the search of relevant information for recipients of the service and contribute to an improved user experience. They also play an important role in the amplification of certain content, the viral dissemination of information and the stimulation of online behaviour. A key requirement of the DSA is therefore to inform users on about how recommender systems impact the way information is displayed.

When assessing systemic risks under the DSA, providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and of very large online search engines (VLOSEs) should, amongst others, take into account whether and how the design of their recommender systems and any other relevant algorithmic system influence those systemic risks.

The Commission therefore does not consider that the DSA's transparency and risk management obligations constitute any interference with Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights². The DSA's risk assessment and mitigation obligations for providers of VLOPs and VLOSEs aim to address systemic risks while respecting fundamental rights. Article 51 of the DSA sets out the powers of Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs). Like all public authorities in the EU, DSCs are bound by the Charter when implementing EU law. Therefore, all powers in Article 51 of the DSA have to be exercised in accordance with the Charter.

All measures in the DSA are subject to due process, including the right to be heard and judicial review.

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).

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:12012P/TXT>.