

EN

E-005041/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.2.2026)

Telegram's founder faces criminal proceedings in France, based on the French Criminal Code, and not in relation to the Digital Services Act (DSA). The Commission does not comment on national investigations.

Furthermore, Telegram is not designated as very large online platform under the DSA, and, therefore, the Commission has no competence to initiate proceedings under this regulation against the company. That competence lies with Belgian digital services coordinator, BIPT.

To protect the integrity of elections, under the DSA, very large online platforms ('VLOPs') and very large search engines ('VLOSEs') are obliged to diligently assess and mitigate any systemic risks stemming from the design or functioning of their service and its related systems, including any actual or foreseeable negative effects on electoral processes. In April 2024, the Commission issued guidelines for VLOPs and VLOSEs on the mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes, which recommend various mitigation measures¹.

Under the DSA, the Commission may initiate a proceeding against any VLOP or VLOSE if suspected of having infringed any of the provisions of the DSA, for instance against TikTok in December 2024². The Commission must respect the Charter of Fundamental Rights, including the principle of non-discrimination. Any DSA-related decision can be challenged before the Court of Justice of the EU.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024XC03014&qid=1714466886277>.

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_6487.