

EN

E-000086/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.3.2026)

The Commission is investigating whether Meta's mitigation of systemic risks and transparency obligations under the Digital Services Act (DSA)¹ are met. In 2024, the Commission opened proceedings under the DSA against Meta, on suspicion that the recommender systems of Facebook and Instagram demote political content². The Commission is monitoring Meta's compliance with the DSA and has sent requests for information, including on recommender systems³. Findings related to ongoing investigations are confidential until publicly communicated.

On 24 October 2025, the Commission preliminarily found Meta in breach of its obligation to grant vetted researchers adequate access to public data under Article 40 DSA⁴. This essential transparency obligation contributes to the detection, identification and understanding of systemic risks in the EU stemming from very large online platforms (VLOPs), such as Meta's Facebook and Instagram, including any actual or foreseeable negative effects on civic discourse or electoral processes.

The EU has put in place a strong co-regulatory framework to counter disinformation⁵, which encompasses the DSA, including the Commission Guidelines on electoral processes⁶, the Code of Conduct on Disinformation including its Rapid Response System⁷, and the DSA Elections Toolkit⁸. Building on this framework, the Commission adopted the European Democracy Shield⁹, which sets out a strategic framework to safeguard, strengthen and promote democratic resilience.

Digital Service Coordinators designated pursuant to the DSA can organise election roundtables to facilitate information sharing and coordination between stakeholders. Upon request, the Commission can provide support in this exercise¹⁰.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/digital-services-act.html>.

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2373.

³ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses#ecl-inpage-metaplatforms>.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2503.

⁵ Beyond the DSA, this notably includes the Regulation on the transparency and targeting of political advertising (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R0900&qid=1771413840504>) and the 2023 Commission's Recommendation on inclusive and resilient elections (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2023/2829/oj/eng>).

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024XC03014&qid=1714466886277>.

⁷ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/code-conduct-disinformation>.

⁸ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-presents-new-best-practice-election-toolkit-digital-services-act>;

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/dsa-elections-toolkit-digital-services-coordinators>.

⁹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/democracy-digital>.

¹⁰ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/dsa-election-readiness-roundtable-platforms-search-engines-and-digital-service-coordinators>.