

EN

E-000243/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.3.2026)

The Commission carefully assessed all relevant evidence and considered the arguments put forward by the provider of X within the framework of the proceedings under the Digital Services Act (DSA)¹ referred to by the Honourable Members. The Commission also ensured that provider was given the opportunity to respond to the Commission's preliminary findings, and that that response was considered fully before reaching a final decision. The provider of X also has the right to challenge the Commission's non-compliance decision before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Notwithstanding the arguments put forward by the provider of X, the Commission concluded that the 'blue checkmarks' feature for 'verified accounts', which forms part of the X service in the EU deceived users because any recipient could pay to obtain the 'verified account' status without the provider of X meaningfully verifying who was behind the account.

The Commission also concluded that X's advertisement repository failed to meet the transparency and accessibility requirements of the DSA, as it incorporated design features and access barriers, such as excessive delays in processing results. This prevents recipients of the service, including independent researchers, from identifying and studying emerging risks tied to the distribution of online advertising, such as scams. Lastly, the Commission concluded that the provider of X unduly restricted eligible researchers from accessing public data, effectively hindering studies into several systemic risks within the EU. The announcement by the provider of X that it will make its recommendation algorithm open source was made after the Commission issued its non-compliance decision and after the period under investigation, which concluded on 5 December 2025.

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) (Text with EEA relevance).