

EN

E-000341/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.5.2026)

The Digital Services Act (DSA¹) entitles recipients of hosting services to a statement of reasons, and recipients of online platforms to an internal complaint-handling system, if their content is restricted by providers of those services. It also entitles recipients to access out-of-court dispute settlement bodies². On this basis, millions of moderation decisions have been reversed since 2024³. The DSA further mandates providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs⁴) to identify, analyse and assess systemic risks in the EU stemming from their services, and to mitigate those risks.

The Commission Guidelines on the mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes pursuant to Article 35(3) of the DSA⁵ point out that collaborating with independent fact-checkers who work on the basis of high ethical and professional standards can be one way for VLOPs to mitigate risks to civic discourse. All content moderation decisions based on fact-checking are subject to the transparency and redress measures mentioned above.

The Commission initiated proceedings in relation to Meta for the suspected demotion of political content through Facebook and Instagram's recommender systems⁶. The Commission is continuously monitoring compliance with the obligations of the DSA.

The Commission published the European Democracy Shield⁷, which aims at reinforcing the integrity of the information space in the EU, and where the EU's commitment to academic freedom is reaffirmed.

Pursuant to Article 91(2) of the DSA, the Commission shall evaluate the DSA by 17 November 2027, addressing, among others, its impact on the respect for the right of freedom of expression and information.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-out-court-dispute-settlement>.

³ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/two-years-digital-services-act-allows-50-million-content-moderation-decisions-platforms-be-reversed>.

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-vlops>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3014/oj/eng>.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2373.

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2660.