

EN

E-000392/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.3.2026)

The Digital Services Act (DSA)¹ requires providers of very large online platforms and very large online search engines to diligently identify and assess and effectively mitigate systemic risks stemming from their services, including any negative effects on civic discourse. Providers are required to analyse whether and how these risks are influenced by a manipulation of their service, such as the use of bots or fake accounts. In addition, these providers must undergo yearly independent external audits to assess their DSA compliance.

The DSA obliges providers of hosting services to set up a user-friendly and easy-to-access notice and action mechanism, empowering users to report content considered to be illegal, including fake identities and to publish transparency reports, including the number of notices received and actions taken.

The Code of Conduct on Disinformation², which was integrated into the DSA, includes commitments for its signatories to combat the use of bots and fake accounts to artificially amplify content, deceive users and disinform.

Enforcing the DSA is a priority and proceedings on systemic risks to civic discourse are ongoing. For example, the Commission's investigation of Meta's policies and practices also concern deceptive advertisements and disinformation due to suspicion that it does not comply with DSA obligations to address coordinated inauthentic behaviour in the EU³.

The Democracy Shield⁴ proposes to reinforce the existing framework with operational measures, such as setting up a DSA incident and crisis protocol or improve the detection and labelling of AI-generated and manipulated content on social media services and voluntary user verification tools. All actions should be progressively rolled out by 2027.

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), OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1–102: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/code-conduct-disinformation>.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2373.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/stronger-measures-protect-our-democracy-and-civil-society-2025-11-12_en.