

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000461/26
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (P/E)
(5 February 2026)**

Subject: Freedom of expression and online content — serious allegations by the US House Judiciary Committee against the Commission

In an official report, the Judiciary Committee of the US House of Representatives accuses the Commission and the EU Member State governments of having manipulated the Internet and suppressed freedom of expression for at least the past 11 years. According to the report, the President of the Commission has pressured big Internet platforms to remove content that questions the EU narrative on the COVID-19 pandemic and COVID-19 vaccines.

It also asserts that the Commission is targeting, among other things, populist discourse, content that criticises the government or the EU, political satire, sentiment that is anti-migration, anti-Islam, anti-refugee and anti-immigration, and anti-LGBTQI content. Furthermore, it is alleged to have influenced both reporting on the war in Ukraine and elections in the EU. The aim, according to the report, is therefore to advance a left-wing socio-political agenda.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the allegations made in the official report of the US Congress Judiciary Committee?
2. What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure or restore full freedom of expression and citizens' rights?
3. What companies and non-governmental organisations received funding from the Commission under the following EU programmes or legal instruments: the EU Internet Forum, the Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online, the Code of Conduct on Disinformation and the Code of Practice on Disinformation, as well as under the Digital Services Act? When did they receive this funding and what was the amount of funding received?

Submitted: 5.2.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(15 April 2026)**

The Commission firmly rejects the censorship allegations made in the report of 3 February 2026 by the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, which are unsubstantiated and unfounded.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ protects freedom of expression by empowering users to obtain explanations and redress if their content is removed or restricted. It sets unparalleled standards for user empowerment, fundamental rights safeguards, transparency ⁽²⁾. It also requires all key enforcement decisions to be published, which is done on a dedicated website ⁽³⁾.

Engaging with providers on how their systems and practices operate is a normal and necessary part of regulatory oversight. Interpreting such exchanges as a means to influence political debate misrepresents the nature of regulatory dialogue.

The Code of Conduct on Disinformation ⁽⁴⁾ is a self-regulatory instrument developed by its signatories, including online platform providers and other relevant players. It promotes a transparent and fair online environment while fully upholding freedom of speech: the Code focuses on providing more context for users to navigate safely in the online environment and counter manipulative practices (e.g. the use of fake accounts or bots), not on removing content. The Commission does not provide financial support to signatories for their participation in the Code ⁽⁵⁾.

None of the instruments mentioned by the Honourable Member provides grants or financial support to any other organisations. Every year, the Commission reports to the European Parliament and the Council on the costs of the Commission's actions in the scope of the DSA ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 on a single market for digital services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/two-years-digital-services-act-allows-50-million-content-moderation-decisions-platforms-be-reversed>.

⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/code-conduct-disinformation>.

⁽⁵⁾ All the information about EU funded projects is available at the EU Funding & Tenders Portal, <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>.

⁽⁶⁾ Latest report on the overall amount of the costs incurred for the fulfilment of the tasks under DSA; for the year 2024, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/annual-report-costs-incurred-fulfilment-commissions-tasks-under-digital-services-act-dsa-2024>.