

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000681/26
to the Commission
Veronika Cifrová Ostrihoňová (Renew)
(18 February 2026)**

Subject: US allegations concerning the Digital Services Act and protection of EU officials

On 3 February 2026, the United States House Judiciary Committee published a report ⁽¹⁾ alleging that the European Union is censoring the global Internet, restricting freedom of expression and interfering in electoral processes. The report also criticises the EU's digital regulatory framework, in particular the Digital Services Act (DSA), which was adopted through a democratic legislative procedure.

The report contains documents requested by the Commission from Very Large Online Platforms, as well as email correspondence involving staff of the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council, and national Digital Services Coordinators. The publication of these materials reveals the names and contact details of officials involved in the implementation and enforcement of the DSA, as well as researchers and staff from fact-checking organisations. Such disclosure may expose these individuals to harassment, threats or other forms of intimidation.

In the light of the above:

1. How has the Commission, as the authority responsible for enforcing the DSA, responded to the allegations and to the publication of its staff's names and contact details?
2. What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure the safety and protection of those involved in implementing and enforcing the DSA?

Submitted: 18.2.2026

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

The Commission firmly rejects the allegations contained in the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee's report of 3 February 2026 as unsubstantiated and unfounded.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ does not prescribe which content is illegal. The Commission cannot order providers or intermediaries of online services to remove specific content from their services. Decisions on such content are taken by the providers themselves.

The DSA obliges the Commission to publish decisions with due regard to protecting confidential information of affected companies. That is why, before publication, the Commission gives companies a chance to redact sensitive business information.

This due process and regard for confidential information should be followed by all sides. The publication of unredacted documents including personal data potentially exposes the respective companies to legal liability for personal data breaches under the General Data Protection Regulation ⁽²⁾.

The publication of personal data of EU staff and civil society experts is deeply concerning, and the Commission takes this very seriously.

Pursuant to Article 24 of the Staff Regulation ⁽³⁾, staff can request assistance from the Commission in this kind of situation and affected staff members have already been provided with information on how to obtain support in case of threats, insults, defamation or other attacks to their person or property. Moreover, the Commission already provides needs-based counselling and assistance to staff enforcing the DSA.

The enforcement of the EU's democratically adopted digital regulations is a sovereign matter. The Commission remains committed to enforcing the DSA at full speed. The Commission stands behind its staff.

¹ <https://judiciary.house.gov/media/press-releases/new-report-exposes-european-commission-decade-long-campaign-censor-american>.

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

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02016R0679-20160504&qid=1532348683434>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01962R0031-20210101>.