

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000947/26
to the Commission
Petra Steger (PFE), Mary Khan (ESN)
(7 March 2026)**

Subject: Follow-up question to E-001868/2025 — DSA recruitment drive setting the stage for a powerful Brussels censorship machine

On 27 June 2025, the Commissioner responsible, Henna Virkkunen, replied to our question for written answer submitted on 8 May 2025 (E-001868/2025) ⁽¹⁾ on the recruitment drive launched under the Digital Services Act (DSA). In her answer, she writes that the number of staff working on DSA implementation is due to rise to 202 full-time equivalents by the end of 2025, taking total estimated personnel costs to EUR 29.21 million.

1. How many people were actually hired before 31 December 2025 to work on DSA implementation and what were the total personnel costs as a result?
2. In 2026, has the Commission made or planned further appointments of staff to work on DSA implementation, and what are the total personnel costs projected to be as a result?
3. Can it unequivocally rule out the possibility that DSA implementation will gradually push up the structural headcount in the long run, effectively resulting in the construction of an all-encompassing, permanent censorship and surveillance apparatus?

Submitted: 7.3.2026

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

The Commission published on 31 March 2026 a report ⁽¹⁾ on the overall amount of costs incurred for the fulfilment of the tasks under Regulation (EU) 2022/2065, Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽²⁾ in 2025, in accordance with Article 43(7) of that regulation.

This mandatory annual report covers the entirety of the expenditure, beyond the Commission's supervisory tasks covered by the supervisory fee pursuant to Article 43(2) DSA ⁽³⁾.

The information requested by the Honourable Members on the number of recruited staff and resulting personnel costs is included in this report in paragraphs 9 and 10.

The information on the total personnel costs for the fulfilment of the supervisory tasks under the DSA is publicly available in the staff working document published by the Commission on 27 June 2025 ⁽⁴⁾.

The overall number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) necessary for the fulfilment of the tasks referred to in Article 43(2) DSA is estimated for the year 2026 at 270 FTEs. This figure includes existing staff and further appointments. The associated cost is estimated at EUR 34.82 million.

The number of staff working on DSA implementation is set by the authorised staffing levels agreed in the standard budgetary procedure and can evolve subject to budgetary availabilities and anticipated needs, estimated on annual basis, for instance in the case of new designated services.

The DSA clarifies that the Commission should be in possession of all the necessary resources, in terms of staffing, expertise and financial means, for the performance of its tasks under the regulation. ⁽⁵⁾

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001868_EN.html.

⁽¹⁾ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the overall annual costs incurred for the fulfilment of the Commission's tasks pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 in the period from 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2025 and the total amount of the annual supervisory fees charged pursuant to Article 6(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/1127 in 2025: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2026:147:FIN>.

⁽²⁾ 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): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ Article 43(2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065.

⁽⁴⁾ SWD(2025) 175: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/overview-elements-accounted-estimation-amount-external-assigned-revenues-stemming-0>.

⁽⁵⁾ Recital 101 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065.

None of those tasks involve the moderation of content. ⁽⁶⁾ The resources allocated to the DSA implementation are annually estimated and subject to the scrutiny of the European Parliament and Council via the above mentioned annual report.

⁽⁶⁾ That is a matter for specific laws and the courts to determine, same as for offline content. The DSA does not determine which content is illegal and the Commission does not have the power to order providers of intermediary services to remove specific content from their services.