

EN

E-001567/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(3.7.2026)

Free and fair elections are at the core of democracy. The conduct and organisation of elections are the competence and responsibility of the Member States, in accordance with their constitutional and legislative rules, subject to EU law and their international obligations.

The integrity of elections and the civic discourse in the EU are a priority for the Commission, as set out in the Communication on the European Democracy Shield<sup>1</sup>.

The Commission has opened an investigation<sup>2</sup> into the political content approach of the provider of Facebook and Instagram in April 2024, including into the suspicion that the provider may not have diligently identified, analysed and assessed the systemic risks to any actual or foreseeable negative effects for civic discourse and electoral processes stemming from the political content, as required by Article 34 (1) (c) of the Digital Services Act (DSA)<sup>3</sup>. The Commission is determined to advance this investigation in full respect of due process.

The Commission is monitoring the functioning of Meta's services to ensure compliance with the DSA and has sent several requests for information, including on the topic of recommender systems.

To support the implementation of the DSA during electoral periods, the Commission issued guidelines<sup>4</sup> to very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs) on managing risks related to electoral processes that focus, among others, on recommender systems.

Furthermore, providers of VLOPs and VLOSEs must also comply, where applicable, with the relevant obligations laid down in the Political Advertising Regulation<sup>5</sup>. Both legislations may apply in parallel to intermediary services which are involved in the dissemination of political advertising.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0791>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_2373](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2373).

<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3014/oj/eng>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/900/oj>.