

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002950/26
to the Commission**

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(15 July 2026)

Subject: Update by the Commission of its guidelines on tackling online disinformation during electoral processes

In 2027, nine EU countries will hold elections amid hybrid warfare and growing foreign interference through information manipulation on social media.

However, the Commission supervises these platforms through the Digital Services Act (DSA).

Article 34 DSA requires the assessment of ‘systemic risks’, including their impact on freedom of expression, civic discourse and electoral processes.

Article 35 empowers the Commission to issue guidelines for mitigating such risks. Although the Commission issued guidelines in April 2024, they remain insufficient to address the latest methods of foreign interference.

The necessary improvements include:

- providing clarification to Member States on their capabilities to act;
 - taking AI into account;
 - freezing recommendation algorithms before and during elections;
 - restricting political profiling;
 - promoting reliable sources;
 - swiftly deleting inauthentic accounts;
 - distinguishing between regular and campaign-specific tools.
1. Has the Commission planned to update its guidelines on the mitigation of systemic risks during electoral processes?
 2. What would be the timeline for their publication before the end of 2026, in coordination with the European External Action Service, the European Centre for Democratic Resilience and national authorities?

Supporter ⁽¹⁾

Submitted: 15.7.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(11 September 2026)

The Commission takes the safeguarding of electoral integrity very seriously and recognises the evolving environment and threat landscape in which elections are held, as described by the Honourable Members.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ provides a framework to address these challenges by obliging designated very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs) to assess and mitigate systemic risks that may affect civic discourse and electoral processes, pursuant to Article 35 of the DSA.

In April 2024, the Commission issued guidelines for providers of VLOPs and VLOSEs on the mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes ⁽²⁾.

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Brando Benifei (S&D).

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 on a Single Market for Digital Services, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Communication from the Commission — Commission Guidelines for providers of Very Large Online Platforms and Very Large Online Search Engines on the

These set out recommended measures, without prejudice to the Commission's enforcement powers under the DSA or to the competences of Member States and other relevant authorities under EU and national law.

The Commission is currently taking stock of the contribution of these guidelines to electoral integrity. The aim is to ensure their continued validity, in the context of an evolved regulatory environment, marked notably by the entry into application of the regulation on the transparency and targeting of political advertising ⁽³⁾ on 10 October 2025 and of the AI Act ⁽⁴⁾'s transparency obligations on 2 August 2026, and in light of the evolving threat landscape.

Based on this assessment, the Commission will revise the guidelines, while staying consistent in its approach, ensuring legal certainty, proportionality and respect for fundamental rights.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that, in a changing technical and regulatory environment, the guidelines remain fit for purpose in mitigating systemic risks to election integrity.

mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes pursuant to Article 35(3) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024XC03014&qid=1714466886277>.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/900 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising, https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/democracy-eu-citizenship-anti-corruption/democracy-and-electoral-rights/transparency-and-targeting-political-advertising_en.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act).