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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.9.2026)

The Commission is closely monitoring reports concerning coordinated inauthentic behaviour and foreign interference.

Under the Digital Services Act (DSA)¹, very large online platforms (VLOPs) must identify, assess and mitigate systemic risks linked to their services, including risks to electoral processes, civic discourse, and inauthentic or automated use. They must also act diligently against illegal content, including counterfeit material infringing intellectual property, when aware of it, and are subject to annual independent audits.

The Commission is supervising whether VLOPs such as X and Meta comply with these obligations, including on notice-and-action mechanisms, transparency reporting, data access and mitigation of risks linked to deceptive use of media identities and logos where this may breach EU or national law. The Commission uses the full range of DSA tools, including requests for information, scrutiny of risk assessments and mitigation measures, and investigations where appropriate. Formal proceedings have been opened against X² and Meta³ in areas relevant to electoral integrity and civic discourse: X concerning information manipulation on the platform, and Meta concerning deceptive advertisements and coordinated inauthentic behaviour in the EU⁴.

The Commission also monitors the implementation of the 2025 DSA Elections Guidelines⁵. Together with the Code of Conduct on Disinformation⁶ and its voluntary Rapid Response System⁷, this supports election preparedness and cooperation. As announced in the Democracy Shield⁸, the Commission, with national Digital Services Coordinators and the European Cooperation Network on Elections, will update the DSA Elections Toolkit⁹ and develop an incident and crisis protocol under the DSA.

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

² Overview of DSA enforcement actions – X, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses#ecl-inpage-twitter>.

³ Overview of DSA enforcement actions – Meta, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses#ecl-inpage-metaplatforms>.

⁴ Commission opens formal proceedings against X under the Digital Services Act, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6709; Commission opens formal proceedings against Facebook and Instagram under the Digital Services Act, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2373.

⁵ Communication from the Commission – Commission Guidelines for providers of Very Large Online Platforms and Very Large Online Search Engines on the 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>.

⁶ The Code of Conduct on Disinformation, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/code-conduct-disinformation>.

⁷ Defending democratic values in the digital age, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/democracy-digital>.

⁸ European Democracy Shield and EU Strategy for Civil Society pave the way for stronger and more resilient democracies, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2660.

⁹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-presents-new-best-practice-election-toolkit-digital-services-act>.