

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000973/25
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(6 March 2025)**

Subject: Commission interference in the Polish presidential elections

Commissioner Virkkunen said in an interview for DW that a ‘round table’ with the Polish authorities, NGOs and platforms would be organised before the presidential elections in Poland. She said it was important that platforms ‘cannot be abused or manipulated; they should have systems that prevent the spread of disinformation’.

In this connection:

1. On what legal basis is the Commission interfering in the electoral process of a sovereign Member State?
2. On what legal basis does the Commission want political content which it unilaterally categorises as ‘disinformation’ to be removed from platforms, when the definition of illegal content under the DSA does not include disinformation.
3. Why (and on what legal basis) is the Commission again interfering with freedom of expression and political debate in the Member States?

Submitted: 6.3.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(6 May 2025)**

The conduct and the organisation of elections are the competence and responsibility of the Member States, in accordance with their national constitutional and legislative rules, while respecting their international obligations and EU law. The Commission does not interfere in the electoral processes of Member States.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ requires providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs) to assess and mitigate systemic risks linked to electoral processes and civic discourse, while protecting fundamental rights, including the freedom of expression ⁽²⁾.

The DSA does not define what constitutes illegal content or disinformation, ⁽³⁾ nor does it determine what type of content may be posted online.

The Commission issued guidelines for VLOPs and VLOSEs on the mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes, which recommend different mitigation measures ⁽⁴⁾.

The Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs) coordinate work at national level with the aim of ensuring VLOPs and VLOSEs’ compliance with the DSA, including during electoral periods.

The European Board for Digital Services, composed of the DSCs, compiled a DSA Elections Toolkit aiming to support DSCs in this task ⁽⁵⁾.

DSCs can organise election roundtables to facilitate information sharing and coordination between relevant stakeholders within the scope of the DSA and based on their legal competences and local election legislation.

Upon the concerned DSC’s request, the Commission can provide support in this exercise. The Commission has so far not received a request to provide support for a roundtable in Poland.

⁽¹⁾ 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), OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1-102: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>

⁽²⁾ Articles 34 and 35 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065.

⁽³⁾ Article 3(h) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024XC03014&qid=1714466886277>

⁽⁵⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/dsa-elections-toolkit-digital-services-coordinators>