

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001961/25
to the Commission
Dan Barna (Renew), Vlad Vasile-Voiculescu (Renew)
(15 May 2025)**

Subject: Inquiry on DSA enforcement: TikTok's algorithm and disinformation in Romania

A recent investigation by Global Witness has revealed concerning issues with TikTok's algorithm ahead of the Romanian elections. The findings indicate that the platform disproportionately promoted far-right content to users, regardless of their initially balanced political interests. This raises questions about the spread of disinformation and the potential for algorithmic bias to impact democratic processes ⁽¹⁾.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) aims to create a safer and more transparent online environment, with specific obligations for very large online platforms (VLOPs) to mitigate systemic risks, including the dissemination of illegal content and disinformation, particularly during electoral periods. The DSA also emphasises the importance of algorithmic transparency and users' rights to access diverse information.

Given these circumstances, the provisions of the DSA and past investigations into TikTok, what specific measures are now being taken to further investigate and address the algorithmic amplification of potentially harmful or biased content on TikTok within the EU, especially in the context of the upcoming elections in Romania?

Submitted: 15.5.2025

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

The organisation and conduct of elections are the competence and responsibility of the Member States, in accordance with their national constitutional rules and legislation, as well as their international obligations and applicable EU law. National authorities and courts are primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with the applicable rules.

With regards to the Romanian elections of May 2025, the Commission has been closely following relevant developments regarding the obligations under the Digital Services Act (DSA), and has been in frequent contact with national authorities, non-governmental organisations and Very Large Online Platforms and Search Engines.

At the request of the Digital Services Coordinator, the Commission also supported the organisation of a roundtable and a tabletop Exercise with the above stakeholders to ensure election preparedness for the new round of elections.

In response to the formal initiation of proceedings 17 December 2024 under the DSA ⁽¹⁾ TikTok has made a number of changes to its systems and processes, including access to platform data, improving political account labelling, designing tools for users to manage content recommendations, and reinforcing internal resources, in particular in their election task force working on covert influence campaigns and advertising integrity.

The investigation is ongoing: and the Commission continues to gather and analyse evidence, as well as assess TikTok's changes.

¹ <https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/digital-threats/tiktok-algorithm-continues-to-push-multiple-times-more-far-right-content-to-users-ahead-of-romanian-election/>.

⁽¹⁾ Commission opens formal proceedings against TikTok on election risks under the Digital Services Act — https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_6487.