

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002815/25
to the Commission
Petra Steger (PFE), Mary Khan (ESN)
(10 July 2025)**

Subject: Possible softening of EU digital rules as part of an agreement with the USA

According to an exclusive report in the Wall Street Journal on 20 June 2025, the United States and the European Union are apparently on the verge of an agreement on several points of discord ⁽¹⁾. The Digital Markets Act (DMA) and the Digital Services Act (DSA) are likely to soften the very EU digital laws that the Commission recently praised as the cornerstones of the digital decade ⁽²⁾. The German *Handelsblatt* also reports that a joint committee has been set up to give US tech companies a say in the application of market rules in future ⁽³⁾. In particular, the abolition or at least substantial mitigation of the DSA, which is misused as an ideologically motivated censorship tool to suppress unwelcome opinions in the digital space under the guise of the fight against disinformation, is long overdue. If US President Trump were to succeed in rolling back this attack on freedom of expression which the DSA represents, he would also be successfully defending free speech in Europe, which is the Achilles' heel of any genuine democracy.

1. Has the Commission negotiated with the US Government to abolish or water down the DMA or DSA?
2. Is the Commission planning to set up a joint committee to give US tech companies a say in the application of market rules?
3. What specific DSA provisions are up for discussion and what reductions in staff numbers does the Commission anticipate as a result of a possible reduction in regulatory intervention?

Submitted: 10.7.2025

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

The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ and Digital Markets Act (DMA) ⁽²⁾ are key pieces of EU legislation adopted through sovereign and democratic processes, to protect European citizens, to foster competition and strengthen innovation in the EU — in line with democratic values.

The DSA sets out rules to ensure that fundamental rights are protected online, and any censorship claims are misguided and misleading.

The DSA does not regulate content nor individual content moderation decisions. Rather, the DSA establishes balanced due diligence obligations for providers of intermediary services, defining the responsibilities of these providers and laying down mechanisms to empower users, compatible with the freedom of expression and of information.

All decisions taken by the Commission under the DSA and the DMA can be challenged in front of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The Commission is bound by the Charter of Fundamental Rights ⁽³⁾ to respect the rights, freedoms and principles, including that of freedom of expression and information.

The DSA and DMA are not trade related instruments. Therefore, nothing in the supervisory and enforcement role of the Commission under the DSA or DMA or in the substantive rules laid down in these two Regulations is part of the ongoing trade negotiations with the United States.

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/economy/trade/u-s-eu-near-deal-on-non-tariff-trade-irritants-455c42f1>

² <https://www.derstandard.at/story/3000000275377/eu-kommission-will-trump-besaenftigen-und-setzt-die-digitalregeln-aus>

³ <https://www.handelsblatt.com/politik/international/handelsstreit-eu-will-es-us-tech-konzernen-ploetzlich-leichter-machen/100137164.html>

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

⁽²⁾ OJ L 265 (2022), pp. 1-66 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/1925/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.