

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000445/26
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(4 February 2026)**

Subject: EU strategic autonomy in the field of digital social networks

Over the past decade, social networks have become key infrastructure in the public space, with a major impact on democratic processes and on the shaping of political opinions.

The European digital space is now characterised by a structural dependence on social media platforms owned and operated by companies from outside the EU, and especially from the USA and China. This situation raises legitimate concerns not only about data protection and competition, but also about information sovereignty, democratic resilience and the Union's ability to protect its public space from foreign interference.

While other major world powers have developed cohesive strategies for their own digital ecosystems, the European Union remains primarily a regulator of the platforms of others, without any large-scale competitive European social media alternatives.

In view of the above, can the Commission clearly state:

1. How it views the EU's current level of dependency, from the perspective of safeguarding democracy?
2. What concrete measures it has in mind to boost the development of European social media platforms, and whether the development of such infrastructure is being assessed within the framework of the aims of open strategic autonomy?
3. How it intends to ensure consistency between acting as a regulator and building up the Union's own digital capacities?

Submitted: 4.2.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(19 March 2026)**

Strengthening technological sovereignty, ensuring strong data protection and boosting competitiveness are key priorities for the Commission.

Therefore, the Commission is investing decisively in European capabilities — in semiconductors, cloud and data infrastructures, artificial intelligence, supercomputing and cybersecurity — while ensuring that Europe's digital rules protect European values, data and economic interests.

The Commission's ambition is clear: Europe must be able to design, develop and control the critical digital technologies on which its security, competitiveness and future depend.

In this context, the Commission will explore future pathways for the EU's tech environment, as set out in the communication on the European Democracy Shield (EDS) ⁽¹⁾.

The initial focus is on future social networking and social media platforms, with a view to supporting EU digital sovereignty. The Commission will also support the development of pan-European platforms making real-time news, and information from professional media outlets, available to wider audiences across the EU in multiple languages.

The challenges that digital technologies bring for democracies, economies and societies have to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

In addition to work on the EDS, which seeks to protect EU democracies by strengthening information integrity and societal resilience, the Commission will continue to enforce both the Digital Services Act ⁽²⁾, which aims to ensure a safe, predictable and trusted online environment that protects fundamental rights, including the principle of consumer protection, and the Digital Markets Act ⁽³⁾, which creates a level playing field in digital markets, promoting fairness and innovation.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/2539eb53-9485-4199-bfdc-97166893ff45_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/digital-services-act.html>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/1925/oj/eng>.