

Digital Services Act: Application timeline

The Digital Services Act (DSA) entered into force on **16 November 2022**. The DSA rules apply to categories of online intermediary services according to their role, size and impact on the online ecosystem. Online intermediary services such as online marketplaces, app stores, collaborative economy platforms, search engines and social media platforms will have to comply with a range of obligations to ensure transparency, accountability and responsibility for their actions. Operators designated as very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs) will have to comply with stricter obligations **already from mid-2023**. The European Commission (EC) will adopt implementing and delegating acts framing the application of the DSA.

Official Journal	27 October 2022	
Entry into force	16 November 2022 (20th day following Official Journal publication)	
Application of the DSA provisions	From 16 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Member States start designating their digital services coordinators – designation by 17 February 2024 (Articles 49 to 51). ➤ European Board for Digital Services to be established (Articles 61 to 63). ➤ EC to set up a Digital Services Committee as an advisory committee (Article 88). ➤ EC starts exercising its supervisory, investigatory, enforcement and monitoring powers in respect of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large search engines (VLOSEs) (Articles 64 to 83). ➤ Providers of online platforms and online search engines start implementing their transparency reporting obligations, including publishing information on their average monthly active recipients (by 17 February 2023) and sending that information to the digital services coordinators and to the EC upon request (Article 24 (2) and (3)). ➤ EC may adopt implementing acts to lay down templates concerning the form and content of transparency reports requested from providers of online platforms (Article 24(6)). ➤ EC may adopt delegated acts to lay down the methodology for calculating the number of average monthly active recipients of the VLOP and VLOSE services in the EU (Article 33(3)). ➤ EC may adopt delegated acts to lay down the rules for the performance of the audits and the technical conditions under which VLOPs and VLOSEs are to share data with relevant authorities and vetted researchers (Articles 37(7) and 40(13)). ➤ EC must adopt implementing acts establishing the amount of the annual supervisory fee in respect of each VLOP and VLOSE provider and adopt delegated acts laying down the related methodology and procedures (Article 43). ➤ EC must adopt implementing acts laying down practical and operational arrangements for the functioning of information sharing systems between the digital services coordinators the European Board for Digital Services and the Commission (Article 85). ➤ Providers of online platforms must take the necessary technical and organisational measures to ensure that complaints submitted by



		<p>bodies, organisations or associations in the name of recipients of intermediary services are processed and decided upon (Article 86).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Delegated acts referred above (adopted pursuant to Articles 24, 33, 37, 40 and 43) enter into force only if no objection has been expressed by Parliament or Council within a period of 3 (or 6) months of notification of the act (Article 87).
	<p>17 February 2024 (15 months after entry into force)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All DSA provisions apply.
VLOPs and VLOSEs designation procedure	<p>From 16 November 2022 (on the date of entry into force)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EC may adopt tools to conduct the VLOP and VLOSE designation procedure, including laying down a methodology for calculating the average monthly number of active recipients (Article 33(3)). ➤ Platforms and search engines to publish their average monthly number of active recipients in the EU by 17 February 2023 at the latest (Article 24). ➤ EC to assess the data provided and adopt decisions designating VLOPs and VLOSEs, i.e. online platforms and search engines that have an average monthly number of active recipients equal to or higher than 45 million in the Union (Article 33(4) to (6)).
Compliance with the DSA obligations	<p>From summer 2023 (within 4 months of the EC designation decision)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ VLOPs and VLOSEs must comply with a set of general obligations. Obligations applicable to all providers of intermediary services (Articles 11 to 15). ➤ Additional obligations applicable to providers of hosting services, including online platforms (Articles 16 to 18). ➤ Additional obligations applicable to providers of online platforms (Articles 19 to 28). ➤ Additional obligations applicable to providers of online platforms, allowing consumers to conclude distance contracts with traders (Articles 29 to 32). ➤ VLOPs and VLOSEs must also comply with a set of specific obligations to manage systemic risks (Articles 33 to 43).
	<p>From February 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All providers of intermediary services must comply with a set of general obligations (Articles 11 to 32). Micro- and small enterprises are exempt from some obligations.
Review clauses	<p>By 17 November 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EC must evaluate and report to the Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on application of Article 33 (concerning VLOPs and VLOSEs) and the regulation's interaction with other legal acts (Article 91(1)).
	<p>By 18 February 2027</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EC must evaluate and report to the Parliament, the Council and the EESC on the regulation's effect on small and medium-sized enterprises (Article 91(1)).
	<p>By 17 November 2027</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EC must evaluate the regulation and report to the Parliament, the Council and the EESC (Article 91(2)).

For more detailed information about the provisions of the Digital Services Act please see our [briefing](#).

A [timeline](#) charting application of the Digital Markets Act is also available.

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