

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Vestager
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.11.2024)

1. The Digital Services Act¹ (DSA) sets out clear criteria to qualify for the status of ‘trusted flagger’ under Article 22, which includes independence from online platforms. Furthermore, the provisions of this article ensure the objectivity and accountability of trusted flaggers to safeguard freedom of expression.

2. The status of trusted flagger is awarded by national Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs), provided that the applicant meets all conditions of Article 22. Article 50 of the DSA requires complete independence for national DSCs, including from governments and political parties.

3. The reliance on public funding by trusted flaggers can be compatible with the DSA, as long as this does not compromise their independence from online platforms and their diligence, objectivity and accuracy in sending notices.

The Commission will continue to assess the implementation of the DSA and ensure its impartiality and effectiveness.

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) (Text with EEA relevance). PE/30/2022/REV/1. OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1–102.