

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(13.1.2026)

The Digital Services Act (DSA)<sup>1</sup> sets out the rules for a safe, predictable and trusted online environment where fundamental rights<sup>2</sup> are effectively protected.

The DSA protects users in the EU against over-removal of lawful content through transparency requirements and a set of safeguards, mandating clear explanations for removals, and robust appeal mechanisms for users, which have already led to reinstate millions of pieces of content previously removed. The DSA itself does not define which content is illegal; this is governed by national law and, exceptionally, other EU laws.

Under the DSA, providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs)<sup>3</sup> need to comply with a set of reinforced obligations. For instance, they are required to assess the systemic risks stemming from design or functioning of their service and its related systems (including negative effects for the exercise of fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and information) and take measures to mitigate them.

The Commission is monitoring providers of VLOPs and VLOSEs' compliance with the DSA<sup>4</sup> and will take the necessary enforcement steps if any infringement is suspected regardless of the political views expressed by users.

Since the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) entered into application on 8 August 2025, VLOPs active in the EU need to treat content offered by media service providers more carefully when moderating.

Without prejudice to their risk mitigation obligation under the DSA, VLOPs must communicate to a media service provider in the scope of Article 18 EMFA<sup>5</sup> a statement of reasons for suspending or restricting the visibility of a content, based on their terms and conditions. VLOPs must give media service providers the opportunity to reply within 24 hours before taking such a decision.

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<sup>1</sup> The Digital Services Act package <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-services-act-package>.

<sup>2</sup> Fundamental Rights include the right to freedom of expression and of information.

<sup>3</sup> Very large online platforms and very large online search engines, respectively, within the meaning of Article 33(1) DSA.

<sup>4</sup> These include the the aforementioned risk assessment and mitigation obligations.

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1083, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1083>.