The Digital Services Act (DSA)\(^1\) seeks to ensure a safer online environment and to protect fundamental rights, including freedom of expression and of information, and is consistent with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The rules do not dictate what content is illegal, which remains rooted in other European or national laws compliant with EU law, in line with the balance on freedom of expression and the lawful limitations permitted under EU law in accordance with Article 52 of the Charter.

The DSA will help enhancing freedom of expression, through a series of ground-breaking measures.

First, the DSA imposes a high standard for due process online. It obliges providers to clarify in their terms and conditions any restrictions they might impose. When such restrictions are applied, for example through content moderation measures, users must be appropriately informed and have effective means of redress.

In addition, for the first time the DSA grants users a right to be informed and gives them agency in their choices as regards the content they see online, for example as regards sponsored content, or prioritisation choices in recommender systems. Very large online platforms will assess and address risks for negative effects on freedom of expression, and will be subject to independent audits, public scrutiny and regulatory supervision directly by the Commission.

With the DSA, users will have better tools at their disposal to express themselves freely online, to seek and receive information, and to develop informed opinions.