

**Question for written answer E-003150/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Alexandra Geese** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** Possible violations of the Digital Services Act by X (formerly Twitter) in the light of recent news reports on the draft regulation on combating child sexual abuse

On 13 October 2023, a news report published in De Volkskrant<sup>1</sup> revealed that the EU Home Affairs account on X.com (formerly Twitter) had sponsored a political advertising campaign in relation to the currently ongoing legislative process on the draft regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse. Following this publication, the visibility of the account of the journalist Danny Mekić, who wrote the De Volkskrant article, was restricted on X. Indeed, third party tools confirm a search suggestion ban as well as a search ban. However, no statement of reason (Article 17 of the Digital Services Act) was sent to Danny Mekić by X which makes any complaint in line with Article 20 impossible. In addition, two other individuals who posted on X about the news story – journalist/researcher Marieke Kuypers and technology expert Bert Hubert – also seem to be affected by visibility restrictions without having received any statement of reason.

Can the Commission address the following questions:

1. Is the Commission investigating this matter as a possible violation of the Digital Services Act?
2. Has any Commission directorate-general or unit or any organisation that collaborates with the Commission, such as Thorn, requested these restrictions in visibility?

Submitted: 25.10.2023

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<sup>1</sup> De Volkskrant article: <https://dannymekic.com/202310/undermining-democracy-the-european-commissions-controversial-push-for-digital-surveillance>.