

## EU Digital Markets Act and Digital Services Act explained

The EU adopted two major pieces of legislation that will change the digital landscape: find out about the Digital Markets Act and Digital Services Act.



▶ **The Digital Services and Digital Markets Acts decrypted**  
[https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/video/v\\_N01\\_AFPS\\_230721\\_DL02](https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/video/v_N01_AFPS_230721_DL02)

The landmark digital rules, adopted in July 2022, help create a safer, fairer and more transparent online environment.

### The power of digital platforms

Over the last two decades, digital platforms have become an integral part of our lives - it's hard to imagine doing anything online without Amazon, Google or Facebook.

While the benefits of this transformation are evident, the dominant position gained by some of these platforms gives them significant advantages over competitors, but also undue influence over democracy, fundamental rights, societies and the economy. They often determine future innovations or consumer choice and serve as so-called gatekeepers between businesses and internet users.

To address this imbalance, the EU upgraded its rules governing digital services by introducing the [Digital Markets Act](#) (DMA) and the [Digital Services Act](#) (DSA), which created a single set of rules applicable across the EU.

---

> 10,000

Number of online platforms operating in the EU. More than 90% of these are small and medium-sized enterprises

---

## Further information

[Find out what the EU is doing to shape the digital transformation.](#)

## Regulating big tech practices: Digital Markets Act

The purpose of the Digital Markets Act is to ensure a level playing field for all digital companies, regardless of their size. The regulation lays down clear rules for big platforms - a list of “dos” and “don’ts” - to stop them from imposing unfair conditions on businesses and consumers.

Such practices include ranking services and products offered by the gatekeeper itself higher than similar services or products offered by third parties on the gatekeeper's platform or not giving users the possibility of uninstalling any preinstalled software or app.

The act improves interoperability between messaging platforms - users of small or big platforms should be able to exchange messages, send files or make video calls across messaging apps.

The rules should boost innovation, growth and competitiveness and will help smaller companies and start-ups compete with very large players.



### **The digital sphere: ‘We are taking back control’**

[https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/the-digital-sphere-we-are-taking-back-control\\_N01\\_AFPS\\_220328\\_DMAC\\_ev](https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/the-digital-sphere-we-are-taking-back-control_N01_AFPS_220328_DMAC_ev)

---

*" The purpose of the digital single market is that Europe gets the best companies and not just the biggest. This is why we need to focus on the legislation's implementation. We need proper supervision to make sure that the regulatory dialogue works. "*

Andreas Schwab (EPP, Germany)

Leading MEP on the Digital Markets Act

---

The Digital Markets Act also sets out the criteria for identifying large online platforms as gatekeepers and gives the European Commission the power to carry out market investigations, allowing for updating the obligations for gatekeepers when necessary and [sanctioning bad behaviour](#).

## Safer digital space: Digital Services Act

The Digital Services Act gives people more control over what they see online: users have better information about why specific content is recommended to them and should be able to choose an option that does not include profiling. Targeted advertising for minors and the use of sensitive data, such as sexual orientation, religion or ethnicity, are banned.

The new rules also help protect users from harmful and illegal content. They significantly improve the removal of illegal content, making sure it is done as fast as possible. They also help tackle harmful content, which, like political or health-related disinformation, doesn't have to be illegal, and introduce better rules for the protection of freedom of speech.

The Digital Services Act also contains rules making sure that products sold online are safe and follow the highest standards set in the EU. Users should have better knowledge of the real sellers of products that they buy online.

---

*" For too long tech giants have benefited from an absence of rules. The digital world has developed into a Wild West, with the biggest and strongest setting the rules. But there is a new sheriff in town - the DSA. Now rules and rights will be strengthened. "*

Christel Schaldemose (S&D, Denmark)

Leading MEP on the Digital Services Act

---

## Background

The Digital Services Act came into force on 16 November 2022 and has been directly applicable across the EU since 17 February 2024. However, very large platforms and very large online search engines had to comply with their obligations under the Digital Services Act earlier - a maximum four months after the European Commission [designated the first set of very large platforms](#) on 25 April 2023.

The Parliament's internal market and consumer protection committee set up [a working group on the implementation of the Digital Services Act](#), which ensures the effective implementation of the DSA across the European Union.

[The Digital Markets Act entered into force on 1 November 2022](#) and its rules started to apply on [2 May 2023](#). The European Commission designated the first gatekeepers on 6 September 2023 and they had a maximum of six months to comply with the new obligations under the Digital Markets Act, so by March 2024.

## Check out more on how the EU shapes the digital world

- [Regulating and taking advantage of artificial intelligence](#)
- [The European strategy for data](#)
- [New EU cybersecurity laws](#)
- [Cryptocurrency dangers and the benefits of EU legislation](#)

- [Protecting online gamers](#)
- [The EU's plan to overcome semiconductor shortage](#)
- [Regulating social media: What is the European Union doing to protect social media users?](#)

## Press release

[Digital Services: landmark rules adopted for a safer, open online environment](#)

## Find out more

[Regulating digital gatekeepers: background on the future digital markets act](#)

[Legislative observatory: Digital Markets Act](#)

[At a glance: Digital Markets Act](#)

[Legislative observatory: Digital Services Act](#)

[At a glance: adopting the Digital Services Act](#)

[European Commission: the Digital Services Act package](#)