



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Thierry Breton  
Member of the Commission

Brussels, 11 October 2023

Dear Mr Zuckerberg,

In light of a number of serious recent developments, let me recall the precise obligations regarding content moderation under the EU Digital Services Act.

Firstly, following the terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel, we are seeing a surge of illegal content and disinformation being disseminated in the EU via certain platforms. I would ask you to be very vigilant to ensure strict compliance with the DSA rules on terms of service, on the requirement of timely, diligent and objective action following notices of illegal content in the EU, and on the need for proportionate and effective mitigation measures. I urgently invite you to ensure that your systems are effective. Needless to say, I also expect you to be in contact with the relevant law enforcement authorities and Europol, and ensure that you respond promptly to any requests.

Secondly, tackling disinformation in the context of elections. I personally raised your attention when we met in San Francisco in June to the fact that Meta would need to pay particular attention to this issue in order to comply with the DSA, and the topic was covered extensively in the stress test carried out by our teams in July.

However, while we have noted steps taken by Meta to increase mitigation measures in the run-up to the recent elections in Slovakia – such as increased cooperation with independent authorities, improvements in response times, and increased fact-checking –, we have also been made aware of reports of a significant number of deep fakes and manipulated content which circulated on your platforms and a few still appear online.

I remind you that the DSA requires that the risk of amplification of fake and manipulated images and facts generated with the intention to influence elections is taken extremely seriously in the context of mitigation measures.

I invite you to inform my team without delay on the details of the measures you have taken to mitigate such deepfakes, also in the light of upcoming elections in Poland, The Netherlands, Lithuania, Belgium, Croatia, Romania and Austria, and the European Parliament elections.

I urge you to ensure a prompt, accurate and complete response to these requests (within the next 24 hours for the former). We will include your answers in our assessment file on your compliance with the DSA. I remind you that following the opening of a potential investigation and a finding of non-compliance, penalties can be imposed.

My team will follow up shortly with a specific request on a number of other issues of DSA compliance that deserve immediate attention.

The DSA is here to protect free speech against arbitrary decisions, and at the same time protect our citizens and democracies.

Yours sincerely,

Thierry Breton

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