Digital Services Act

The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union have reached a **political agreement (23.04.2022)** by which the Digital Services Act (DSA) will soon become a reality.

The text is still to be finalised at a technical level, after which both the Parliament and the Council will formally approve it.

Together with the Digital Markets Act (or DMA), the DSA will be part of **a new set of Union-wide rules on digital matters**. The development of a **more secure digital space and a level playing field** are at the heart of both initiatives.

To this end, the main measures adopted are aimed at **online platforms**, which will be required to meet demanding standards to ensure the **absence of illegal online content**. The purpose is to bring to the online world a level of protection of fundamental rights similar to that of the offline world. Other **online intermediary services**[1] are also regulated in the new legislation.

Controls will also be increased to ensure the transparency and reliability of the information provided and the European Commission and the Member States will have access to the **algorithms** of the main platforms.

The new obligations will primarily look after the most vulnerable and will prioritize the **protection of minors and the fight against disinformation**, pursuing the exchange of illegal non-consensual content, increasing transparency standards, prohibiting the treatment of certain confidential data in advertising and prohibiting the manipulation of users through "dark patterns".

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[1] Intermediary services offering network infrastructure, webhosting services and cloud computing, online search engines, online selling platforms, etc.

In short, the DSA will improve **users' control** over how their data is used and will ensure the **accountability** of large online platforms, as well as the **European Commission's ability to act** in exceptional crisis situations.

As soon as the final agreed text is published, we will proceed to analyse it.