



8.9.2025

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition No 0710/2025 by A. P. (Greek), on behalf of “Digital Humanism Initiative”, on defending the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and regulating Artificial Intelligence in the EU**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioner states that the Digital Humanism Initiative issued a public statement in support of the EU Artificial Intelligence Act in December 2023. The petitioner believes that there is an urgent need to rally support worldwide, not only for the EU AI Act but also the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA) as the entire European regulatory framework for Digital Technologies is threatened. The petitioner considers that these three EU Acts are now under a renewed attack by big tech companies. The petitioner argues that the European Union must stand up to the threats to its digital regulatory framework, which has been and continues to be constructed in order to safeguard humanistic and democratic values. The petitioner mentions an open letter that has gathered broad support worldwide. This letter states that the DSA and the DMA and the AI Act do not constitute censorship or attacks on any particular company or nation as powerful disinformation purveyors claim. The petitioner considers that the provisions of the DSA and DMA should be fully enforced and that the completion of the AI Act towards its full implementation in 2026 should proceed forcefully. The petitioner requests that the EU should continue working multilaterally to set common standards and regulatory policies in AI and digital technologies in general, with other national and international organizations as broadly as possible.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 2 July 2025. Information requested from Commission under Rule 233(5).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 8 September 2025

The Commission welcomes the petitioners' support to the European Union's digital regulations, in particular the Digital Services Act (DSA), Digital Markets Act (DMA) and AI Act. The DSA, DMA and AI Act are key pieces of EU legislation adopted through democratic processes, to protect European citizens, to foster competition and strengthen innovation in the EU – in line with our democratic values.

The Commission agrees with the petitioners' assessment that the DSA promotes freedom of expression and information and that any censorship claims are misguided and misleading. Ensuring strong safeguards for fundamental rights, including the right to freedom of expression and information, is at the heart of EU policymaking. It is guaranteed by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The DSA is designed to uphold, not undermine, freedom of expression online. The DSA establishes clear rules with transparency, accountability and effective oversight at its very core laying down mechanisms to facilitate the notification of specific items of information considered to be illegal by recipients of the service and establishing safeguards to ensure that actions taken by the relevant providers are targeted and do not unduly affect the freedom of expression and of information of recipients of the service. In this context, the DSA does not regulate content: it does not define what is illegal, this is defined in national or EU law other than the DSA. Instead, the DSA focuses on transparent and proportionate processes and systems: it enhances transparency allowing users to understand intermediary services providers' decisions. The DSA also aims at shielding recipients from arbitrary content moderation decisions by providers of online platforms, offering redress mechanisms for account suspensions and allowing users to challenge content moderation decisions taken by such providers.

The DMA is designed to ensure the contestability and fairness of digital markets in the EU. As such the DMA is an enabler rather than a hindrance for innovation. It creates conditions so that all companies offering their services in the EU, including smaller firms and innovators, irrespective of where they are headquartered, can contest the gatekeeper positions of large digital companies and compete with them under fair conditions. Accordingly, the beneficiaries of the DMA are not only EU companies but any innovative companies offering their services in the EU in compliance with EU rules.

The European Union is committed and determined to become a global leader in Artificial Intelligence and to act with ambition, speed, and foresight to shape the future of AI in a way that enhances the EU's competitiveness, safeguards and advances our democratic values and protects our cultural diversity. The human-centric and risk-based approach promoted in the AI Act aims to address the challenges brought by AI, while maximizing its opportunities.

The Commission reaffirms that these laws and their implementation are key pieces of the EU legislation adopted through democratic processes. The Commission remains fully committed to the effective enforcement of its legislation. Accordingly, open proceedings under the DSA and DMA are being advanced at full capacity, while fully respecting procedural rights of the parties concerned. Under the DSA, there are currently 14 open proceedings that the Commission advances with full commitment. In this regard a major milestone was recently reached with the Commission's investigation against the provider of AliExpress. The Commission accepted and made legally binding a wide-ranging set of commitments from that provider — the second time this has happened under the Digital Services Act. At the same time, the Commission also preliminarily found that the provider of AliExpress and several other providers acted in breach of the DSA obligations. These preliminary findings cover

systemic issues. For example, the Commission services preliminary found that tools that are designed to empower users, including notice and action mechanisms and advertising repositories, do not function adequately. In addition to these on-going proceedings, the Commission had, in August 2024, already accepted and made legally binding the first set of commitments under the DSA, which concerned the decision of TikTok to permanently withdraw the TikTok Lite Rewards programme. This new TikTok programme could have negatively affected the physical and mental health of users, in particular young people, and was launched without a prior risk assessment. Moreover, on 14 July this year, the Commission adopted guidelines on the protection of minors which aim to make the online environment safer for children by describing measures that the Commission considers that providers of online platforms accessible to minors should put in place to ensure a high level of safety, security and privacy on their services, so that they can fully enjoy the benefits that the online world has to offer. These are concrete examples of how the DSA is already delivering results for the safety of European users.

Under the DMA, most recently, at the end of March 2025, the Commission has adopted, for the first time, two specification decisions addressed to Apple concerning its obligations to ensure effective interoperability for services offered on its iPhone. Furthermore, in April 2025, the Commission has adopted non-compliance decisions under the DMA for both Meta and Apple. The Commission is implementing the DMA in a neutral, robust and evidence-based manner. This includes engaging in regulatory dialogue with gatekeepers and interested third parties, as well as initiating formal proceedings where necessary.

On the AI Act, the Commission's priority now is to ensure a smooth and effective implementation of the AI Act and that the rules introduced are clear and easy to apply. For this reason, the European Commission is publishing guidance documents and working with stakeholders to detail the implementation, for example through a recently published code of practice on general-purpose AI. The Commission's commitment to the goals of the AI Act, such as establishing harmonised risk-based rules across the EU and ensuring the safety of AI systems and general-purpose models in the European market, remains unchanged. The prohibitions under the AI Act have been applicable since February 2, with new provisions for general-purpose AI set to take effect in August. In parallel, the Commission continues to work on further supporting stakeholders in the implementation of all rules of the AI Act, for example through the launch of an AI Act Service Desk. Moreover, the Commission works with priority on making Europe an AI continent and on creating the conditions to boost the development and uptake of trustworthy AI. The Commission has recently adopted the EU AI Continent Action Plan, which sets out the strategy and action plan to achieve this vision.

The DSA, DMA and AI Act are enforced impartially, apply exclusively within the Union and are subject to strict scrutiny of European courts. Companies from around the world, including large technology companies can freely decide to offer their services to European users. But when companies decide to offer their services within our market of 450 million consumers, they must follow EU laws. This is the case for all companies, regardless of where they are headquartered. As previously communicated, the implementation and enforcement of the EU's legislation, including its digital legislation, is independent of any trade negotiations, including with the U.S. The Commission further confirms to the petitioners that the EU is working closely with its international partners and engaging broadly, decisively and in close coordination in multilateral and international organisations to shape a global digital transformation that is human-centric, trustworthy, and that respects human rights and

fundamental freedoms. With the adoption of the International Digital Strategy for the EU in June 2025 the EU reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen its existing relations with allies globally, to forge new mutually beneficial partnerships and to support the rules-based global order also in the digital realm, aligned with the values of democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights. The EU has developed strong regional and bilateral digital cooperation with partners and will deepen and broaden the existing network of digital partnerships and dialogues to advance cooperation in key areas, including the regulation of digital technologies in line with democratic values and international human rights standards. As outlined in the AI Continent Action Plan, the EU will continue to engage bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally with trusted partners to support the establishment of a global level playing field for trustworthy AI, to promote the good governance of AI globally and to help its partners around the world. This includes bilateral partnerships and multilateral initiatives such as the G7 Hiroshima process and the Council of Europe Convention on AI. The EU will continue to promote the universal values that underpin its regulatory approach to online platforms and digital markets bilaterally and multilaterally, including by liaising with other leading regulators and enforcers, and by building new networks on digital services and AI. The EU will continue to work with international organisations and the global multistakeholder community, including civil society to promote a human-centric digital transformation.

Civil society stakeholders – such as the petitioners – with their specific subject-matter expertise play an important role in the effective enforcement of EU regulations for the digital sphere, including the DSA, DMA and AI Act. We invite the petitioners to continue to follow the implementation and enforcement of the laws and other regulatory efforts inside the EU closely. We invite the petitioners to contribute to the enforcement of the EU’s digital rules with their expertise and research and to promote internationally a human-centric digital transformation based on democratic values.

### Conclusion

The Commission reaffirms its strong commitment to enforcing the DSA, the DMA, and the AI Act, which are key pieces of legislation protecting EU citizens, promoting innovation and safeguarding democratic values. To this end, the Commission constantly engages in a regulatory dialogue with the companies concerned, and it actively pursues all opened proceedings under the DSA and DMA, while upholding the procedural rights of all parties involved. The Commission is also prioritising the smooth implementation of the AI Act, providing stakeholders with the necessary guidance and support to comply with the applicable rules.

Furthermore, the EU is closely engaging with international partners, and the multistakeholder community, to shape a global digital transformation that respects human rights and freedoms.

The Commission acknowledges and appreciates the petitioners' commitment to upholding democratic values and leveraging digital technology to benefit society and welcomes their continued support in promoting a human-centric approach to the governance of digital innovation.