

# The new Digital Services Act Package:

## A paradigm shift?

### A webinar series of the European Audiovisual Observatory

#### #4 The Digital Services Act and the fight against disinformation

*The DSA focuses on fixing platforms' vulnerabilities against their manipulation in order to amplify harmful behaviours, such as the spread of political disinformation, hoaxes and manipulation during pandemics, harms to vulnerable groups. A supervised risk-based approach will oblige very large platforms to assess and mitigate the risks their systems pose, including for protecting fundamental rights, public interests, public health and security, and to subject their assessments and measures to independent audit. How will the interplay between the DSA package and the provisions contained in the European Democracy Action Plan (EDAP) and the Media and Audiovisual Action Plan (MAAP) work in practice?*

Thursday, 1 July 2021, 16.00 – 17.30 CET, Online webinar

#### Opening

16.00 – 16.05 Opening and introduction to the session by **Maja Cappello**, Head of the Observatory's Department for Legal Information

#### The expert's corner

16.05 – 16.15 **Risks and opportunities of the DSA for the fight against disinformation**  
*What are the legal grounds for regulating disinformation? Is the DSA an adequate and sufficient instrument to fight against disinformation? And what are the risks with regard to freedom of expression?*  
**Tarlach McGonagle**, Associate professor at the Institute for Information Law (IViR) of the University of Amsterdam and Professor of Media Law and Information Society at the University of Leiden

#### Fire-side chats with stakeholders

16.15 – 16.25 **Setting the scene by Krisztina Stump**, Head of Unit, Media convergence and social media, DG CONNECT, European Commission

16.25 – 16.35 **The role of online platforms**  
*Social media have been accused of profiting from disinformation spread through their services. They also have an important role to play in this fight. What will change for them after the adoption of the DSA?*  
**Siada El Ramly**, Director general, Dot Europe

16.35 – 16.45 **The perspective of audiovisual media services**  
*Broadcasters are subject to more stringent content rules than social media and have traditionally played an important watchdog role for society. What do broadcasters do in the fight against disinformation?*  
**Greg Polad**, Director general, ACT

16.45 - 16.55 **New tasks, new institutions**  
*EDMO was set up in 2020 aiming at becoming the reference point in the European Union for building resilience against online disinformation. How will the new challenges posed by the DSA impact on its daily work?*  
**Paula Gori**, Secretary General, EDMO

16.55 - 17.05 **Risks and opportunities for users' rights**  
*If disinformation is not necessarily illegal as such, what are the risks for freedom of expression in regulating it?*  
**Paige Morrow**, Legal Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression

#### Interaction with the audience

17.05 – 17.20 **Short Q & A session with our audience**

#### Closing

17.20 – 17.30 **Closing with input from Tarlach McGonagle and Krisztina Stump**  
**Maja Cappello**, Head of the Observatory's Department for Legal Information