

Report of videoconference between Google and SG policy unit, 9 March 2022

Attendees

- Google representatives: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Secretariat General: [REDACTED] D1, [REDACTED] D1, [REDACTED],
[REDACTED]

The meeting was held on the initiative of Google to discuss DSA, DMA and AI liability, as well as Google's actions in response to the Russian invasion against Ukraine.

On this last point Google is actively tackling disinformation by promoting qualitative content and authoritative sources of information, ensuring cyber security of Google's products and providing tech and organisational support. In Europe You Tube removed numerous channels and reviews and blocked Sputnik and RT, which were also removed from European Google Search and limited in Google News and Discovery. Google Maps were supplemented with features to help migrants and warn against air raids. The Google services still operate in Russia, with company monitoring the evolution of local legal requirements.

On DSA Google hoped for a swift adoption and argued that any provisions on disinformation, trusted flaggers and user redress should be carefully balanced, so that malicious actors cannot use them to game the rules to their advantage, with potential unintended consequences of negatively impacting the company's content moderation efforts.

On DMA Google raised concerns on complexity and technical feasibility to implement potential new interoperability and FRAND requirements. As concerns possible new provisions on targeted advertising Google flagged the risk of user fatigue that can be triggered by excessive consent requirements.

As concerns artificial intelligence (AI), Google welcomed the proportionate approach proposed by the Commission but expressed concerns about the allocation of responsibility between the different actors in the value chain, especially in the case of standalone software. Google questioned the need to move forward with the liability framework as the AI Act was still in negotiations and positioned itself against a strict liability framework for software and the expansion of damages to not physical harm.

On the side of the Secretariat General [REDACTED] took good note of all the observations made by Google representatives. For DSA and DMA [REDACTED] recalled that the Commission's aim is to find proportionate compromises to facilitate an agreement between the co-legislators. On liability and AI, [REDACTED] stressed that the Commission was still working on a proposal. [REDACTED] agreed with the need to have coherence between the AI Act and the liability framework.