



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of President Ursula von der Leyen  
Member of Cabinet

Brussels, 30 November 2020  
CA.1.CAB STAFF/ [redacted]

### SHORT NOTES OF A MEETING

Subject: ZDF on 6 October 2020 (Digital Services Act and European Democracy Action Plan - responsibility of broadcasters for content they distribute, attribution & findability of content, many different types of gatekeeper)

[redacted] joined me in this meeting.

#### 1) Platforms responsibilities

Broadcasters take responsibility for all content they distribute, under independent regulation. Such content should not be subject to subsequent filtering. Community standards are sometimes applied to restrict such content, with unclear reasoning. Public interest should override business freedom in this respect.

#### 2) Ex ante rules

Rules on access to data (including about consumption of one's own content & services) and against self-preferencing by platforms are important.

Algorithm transparency is also key.

Sources (e.g. of news) should always be attributed.

One should not concentrate only on mega platforms, niches are also subject to gatekeepers.

European Democracy Action Plan:

Independent public broadcasters should not be tagged as 'state-controlled media'.

Need for findability requirements for trusted content, linked to rankings.

DSA should not be limited to tighter obligations on suppression of illegal content.

e-signed -  
Anthony WHELAN