

From:

█

Meeting with █
Platforms/Facebook █ Meta

Date:

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Dear all,

I am sending you notes from yesterday's meeting between VPJ and █
█ Meta Platforms/Facebook.

Thank you very much and wish you a great evening, █

On 6 of December, VPJ held an online meeting with █
█ Meta Platforms/Facebook. They opened up with remarks on the most recent developments in tech and data world: the topics of algorithmic transparency, political content on SOME platforms or regulatory frameworks such as DSA, Code of Practise on Disinformation, GDPR or Privacy Shield II. █ expressed his views that some of the DPAs took the enforcement from privacy to protectionism and that their approach might be too strict.

On disinformation, █ expressed █ big support for stronger new Code, █ mentioned that FB is already doing a lot in this regard, incl. increasing transparency, making data available or working with fact-checkers etc. █ also announced that Meta would include its private messaging services WhatsApp and Messenger into the framework of the new Code. This was warmly welcomed by VPJ. Both agreed that this would need to be done with a strong message to the users that privacy and private encrypted communication would not be infringed.

█ further mentioned the efforts FB is making, such as publishing 12 weeks reports, having conducted independent audits by EY, working with heavy content moderation and content removal tools, empowering users or working on enhanced algorithms and spoke about the results that enabled the hate speech content to be halved on the platform within the last 12-18 months. VPJ and █ spoke about the differences and nuances between disinformation and misinformation. For VPJ, the most important threshold is the public harm, notably if there is a potential to induce public violence.

█ mentioned the troubles with legal speech that is labelled as misinformation and that reflects the views and political arguments of people, who do not agree with the mainstream media or opinions. █ addressed the problematic narrative of elimination of misinformation in the sense that it is constantly shifting, what is considered misinformation based on the current winning political views. █ touched the questions of censorship, of FB targeting content and also the question of fact-checkers having their own agenda.

█ informed that FB is currently looking into more open models of content moderation (not so heavily focused on content removal and moderation), where users could see what fact-checkers found and how they decided, while still seeing the original legal content, so the users could decide for themselves. This would give them access to more information and potentially

empower them to make better decisions. They discussed the four layers of FB content policies and its precautionary measures: content removal, reducing of content prominence (by far the biggest volume), informing users and labelling content, and no action. They also discussed the importance of accessibility of defined set of data to researchers/academics, so they could prepare thorough, credible, independent and accurate analyses. VPJ talked about the need of more detailed country level data from FB that would be more granular. [REDACTED] appreciated the establishment of EDMO and introduced the US 2020 programme that is developing research methodology.

[REDACTED] addressed the allegations of [REDACTED] that FB boosts fearsome and threatening messages using algorithms to have bigger outreach and condemned that FB would write algorithms to deliberately spread hate. [REDACTED] spoke about FB providing transparency on technology of the algorithms and that they are open to publish more data. [REDACTED] described the ranking algorithms and spoke about the efforts to promote the most enriching content. [REDACTED] also spoke about FB conducting surveys and research to boost and promote positive content over the negative content. [REDACTED] also remarked that the advertisers themselves put pressure on FB that they do not want to be associated with harmful post that their advertising is appearing next to.

Further, VPJ and [REDACTED] discussed the future of political content on FB. VPJ raised the issue of anonymity of the contributors and they have talked about the danger of exercising platform power over politics. [REDACTED] assessed that FB should not act as a referee or a democratic watchdog, and do not intend to do the legislators job, but are ready to comply with any legal requirements.

They also discussed the DSA proposal, in particular that the French are confident to finish up on it fast and that it would be a massive compliance exercise for both sides. They also touched the trend of centralising digital law enforcement, especially within the DSA one-stop-shop framework.