



## **Press statement of the European Board for Digital Services**

**2 July 2025**

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### **The European Board for Digital Services discussed growing risks resulting from financial scams, the facilitation of researchers' access to platforms' data and the strengthening of the protection of minors online**

On 27 June 2025, the European Board for Digital Services (the Board) met in Brussels for its fourteenth regular meeting. This Board meeting focused on the safety of users online, including protection from financial scams online, safeguarding minors online, and on data access for vetted researchers.

**The Board had an in-depth discussion on financial scams**, reflecting on the growing concerns among Member States and regulators about the scale and sophistication of such scams online. Financial scams involve fraudulent activities aimed at illegitimately obtaining money or assets through deception, such as investment scams, consumer scams or romance scams. In addition to financial losses, which are estimated to run into the billions of euros annually across the European Union (EU), victims of financial frauds endure an emotional toll that includes psychological distress, erosion of user trust and self-criticism. Given its profound impact on the lives of many European citizens, the Board considers financial scams a cross-cutting risk. It requires coordinated enforcement between the Commission and Digital Services Coordinators (DSC) under the Digital Services Act (DSA), and coordination with other legal instruments and cooperation with other relevant authorities at Union and national level. To better counteract financial scams online, Working Group 5 on marketplaces and consumer protection has been tasked to conduct a mapping of scams formats and existing and emerging diffusion strategies across the EU. This mapping could constitute the basis for coordinated action between the Commission, the Board and DSCs. In addition, the Board will explore a common EU-wide information campaign on the risks of financial scams.

*“Financial scams inflict serious harm on many Internet users in Europe and therefore pose serious, systemic risks under the DSA. Effective enforcement requires coordinated action between the European Commission, the European Board for Digital Services and Digital Services Coordinators as well as cooperation with other competent national regulators, online platforms and third parties to address these growing threats comprehensively.”*

**Roberto VIOLA**, Director-General, DG CONNECT

Furthermore, the Board **recognised the critical role researchers play in ensuring greater transparency online**. To this end, the Board warmly welcomes the Commission's delegated act on data access that is scheduled to be adopted today, 1<sup>st</sup> July. Access to internal platform data by vetted researchers constitutes a milestone innovation of the DSA. The new rules of the delegated act clarify the procedures on how vetted researchers can access platforms' internal data, which was previously not, or only partially, accessible for research purposes. This is fundamental to enable vetted researchers to scrutinise how platforms impact users, society, and democracy. Complementing the delegated act, the Board endorsed how DSCs can cooperate on the assessment of data access applications and on the granting of the "vetted researcher" status. This work, jointly prepared by several DSCs and coordinated by Arcom within Working Group 3 on content moderation and data access, aims to harmonise the application procedures for researchers and ensure a smooth vetting process.

*"With the delegated act on data access and the enhanced cooperation between DSCs, we have in Europe a first of its kind comprehensive framework for researchers to access data from Very Large Operating Platforms' and Search Engines, allowing the whole society for a better understanding of the systemic risks they may cause."*

**Renate NIKOLAY**, Deputy Director-General, DG CONNECT

*"As vice-chair of Working Group 3, Arcom commends the collaboration among DSCs for a coherent implementation of Article 40 of the DSA. This endorsement demonstrates the joint effort to facilitate researchers' access to platforms' data for conducting studies on systemic risks and their mitigation. We look forward to pursuing this work within the Board and with the support of the Commission, embracing a dynamic and collaborative approach to enhance the operational effectiveness of the DSA for the benefit of European citizens"*

**Martin AJDARI**, President, Arcom

Moreover, the Board confirmed that **the protection of minors is a key priority**, following the recent closure of the public consultation on the Guidelines on protection of minors online under the DSA. With over 300 contributions received, the initiative clearly resonated with stakeholders across the EU. Key areas of interest were risk review, age assurance, recommender systems and commercial practices.

Finally, DSCs informed the Board of recently held and upcoming **elections in Europe** with potential DSA implications. The Board also discussed the upcoming review of its **annual workplan** and the future guidelines on **trusted flaggers**.