

The Consumer Voice in Europe

Ref.: BEUC-X-2022-045

Ms Margrethe Vestager Executive Vice-President European Commission Rue de la Loi 200

B - 1049 Brussels

10 May 2022

Subject: The European Commission must allocate sufficient resources to DMA and DSA enforcement

Dear Executive Vice-President,

BEUC welcomes the Commission's determination to set a high standard for platform regulation and the agreements reached at the 24th March trilogue on the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and at the 22nd April trilogue on the Digital Services Act (DSA) and looks forward to their formal adoption by the European Parliament and Council of Ministers and their entry into force as soon as possible.

We recognise that, if properly enforced, the DMA and the DSA will be landmark laws to rebalance digital markets, increase consumer protection and choice and put an end to many of the harmful practices that Big Tech has engaged in over the years.

However, both instruments will only be effective if Big Tech companies comply with the rules. In this respect, we would like to convey our serious concerns about the implementation and enforcement of the DMA and the DSA in practice by the Commission and the Member States, respectively.

We welcome that the European Commission will be the primary enforcer of the DMA to ensure uniform application of these new rules and that it will have an essential role in the enforcement of the DSA. Nevertheless, we are concerned that the Commission will not be in a position to exercise its roles effectively unless it has sufficient human and technical resources, including IT tools and digital specialist expertise to the vital function of verifying compliance with the new rules, and of taking prompt enforcement action where necessary. Meanwhile, we note that Big Tech companies are currently substantially expanding their legal and government affairs teams in Brussels.

If the Commission lacked the necessary resources and in-house expertise to ensure compliance with the DMA and the DSA, Big Tech would be unlikely to take their compliance responsibilities seriously. This would directly affect the effectiveness of the rules and compromise the achievement of their objectives. In this case, the legislation would soon lose credibility in the eyes of Europe's citizens. Moreover, the respect the EU as a whole has earned for being the first jurisdiction in the world to tackle the excess power of Big Tech would be undermined.

With this in mind, it is essential that the Commission takes steps now to ensure that all necessary structures and resources are put in place in a timely manner, including creating a culture of cooperation between the Commission's DGs concerned with the effective implementation of the new rules and without reducing the already limited resources available to enforce competition law. Furthermore, we

expect the Commission to rapidly communicate to the public the measures that are being taken to that effect.

Please be informed we have sent this letter also to Commissioners Breton and Reynders.

We look forward to contributing to making this law a success for European citizens and consumers.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Goyens Director General Ursula Pachl

Deputy Director General