The DSA and Platform Regulation Conference

16-17 February 2026

Amsterdam Law School

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM   ivir   DSA Observatory

Programme guide

dsa-observatory.eu

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Amsterdam Law School

dsa-observatory.eu

About the 2026 conference

Over the past two years, the DSA has moved from legal ambition to regulatory practice. The European Commission has launched formal proceedings against several Very Large Online Platforms and Search Engines, national regulators have begun asserting their roles, and platforms have published new transparency disclosures, including systemic risk assessments and audit reports. Delegated acts have helped clarify key procedures and Codes of Conduct have been integrated into the framework, while early efforts to operationalize researcher access and user redress mechanisms have begun to develop, if unevenly. And developments in related legal areas, like artificial intelligence, political advertising, online media, and the regulation of digital markets, continue to shape platform regulation more generally.

As the regulation moves into this new phase, a broader accountability ecosystem has emerged, with a variety of actors—including researchers, fact-checkers, auditors, out-of-court dispute settlement bodies, and litigants—engaging with the DSA's tools and testing their limits. At the same time, geopolitical developments have put significant pressure on the interpretation and enforcement of the DSA, giving increased significance to questions about the DSA and the political will to enforce European rules that aim to protect democratic values and fundamental rights.

With the DSA, the EU aimed to set a new global standard for platform regulation. Two years into its full applicability across the EU, this conference brings together scholars, regulators, legal practitioners, industry representatives, and civil society experts to critically assess how the framework is working in practice and reflect on its capacity to deliver on its democratic promise.

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About the DSA Observatory

The conference is organised by the DSA Observatory, a project run by the Institute for Information Law (IViR) at the University of Amsterdam. The DSA Observatory provides independent scholarly input and facilitates discussions regarding the Digital Services Act, its implementation and enforcement. In particular, the DSA Observatory focuses on fundamental rights and democratic values as a means to confront platform power.

Launched in January 2021, the Observatory has followed the DSA political process closely. It engages with different stakeholders and brings together a broad network of platform regulation experts from academia, civil society, and government. The project generates regular analysis on the DSA and relevant developments, including blog posts, policy reports, academic articles, and events including expert workshops, panels and conferences.

The DSA Observatory was launched as part of the "Digital Transformations of Decision-Making" research initiative of the Amsterdam Law School and contributes to the activities of the Digital Legal Lab, an inter-university research centre on law and digital technologies run by a research network between four Dutch universities: Tilburg University, the University of Amsterdam, Radboud University Nijmegen and Maastricht University. This joint research initiative, the Digital Legal Studies Sector Plan for legal research, is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW).

The DSA Observatory has received funding from the Open Society Foundations, from the Civitates initiative ("Healthy Digital Public Sphere" programme), and through the DSA Research Network (a collaboration with the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society and the Hans-Bredow-Institut) funded by Stiftung Mercator.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Venue	**De Brug (main conference hub)** is the bridge above the water at the University of Amsterdam Roeterseiland campus, located at *Nieuwe Achtergracht 166, 1018 WV* De Brug can be accessed via the Roeterseiland Campus (REC) A/B/C entrance
Registration and Info Desk	**Registration and information in De Brug** Open from 08:30 on both days *Due to limited venue capacity, the conference is open to registered participants only*
Wi-Fi	**Daily access codes for the UvA guest WiFi network** will be made available at the registration and info desk E**duroam access** is also possible for conference attendees
Catering	**Lunch will be provided on both days, and a buffet dinner on Day 1** Coffee, tea, and light snacks will also be offered during breaks on both days
Conference Abstracts	**Paper abstracts and related publications** can be found in a shared NextCloud folder **URL**: https://tinyurl.com/2tmk2rek **Password**: 5EtDsDPy2z
Assistance	If you have a question or run into any issue, please speak to a volunteer or a member of the organising team

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Roeterseiland Campus
Situation as at September 2022

De Brug

"The Bridge" (4th floor)
Main conference venue
Access via C-wing
elevators or stairs

Main Entrance

Enter via Roeterseiland
Campus (REC) A/B/C

A5.24
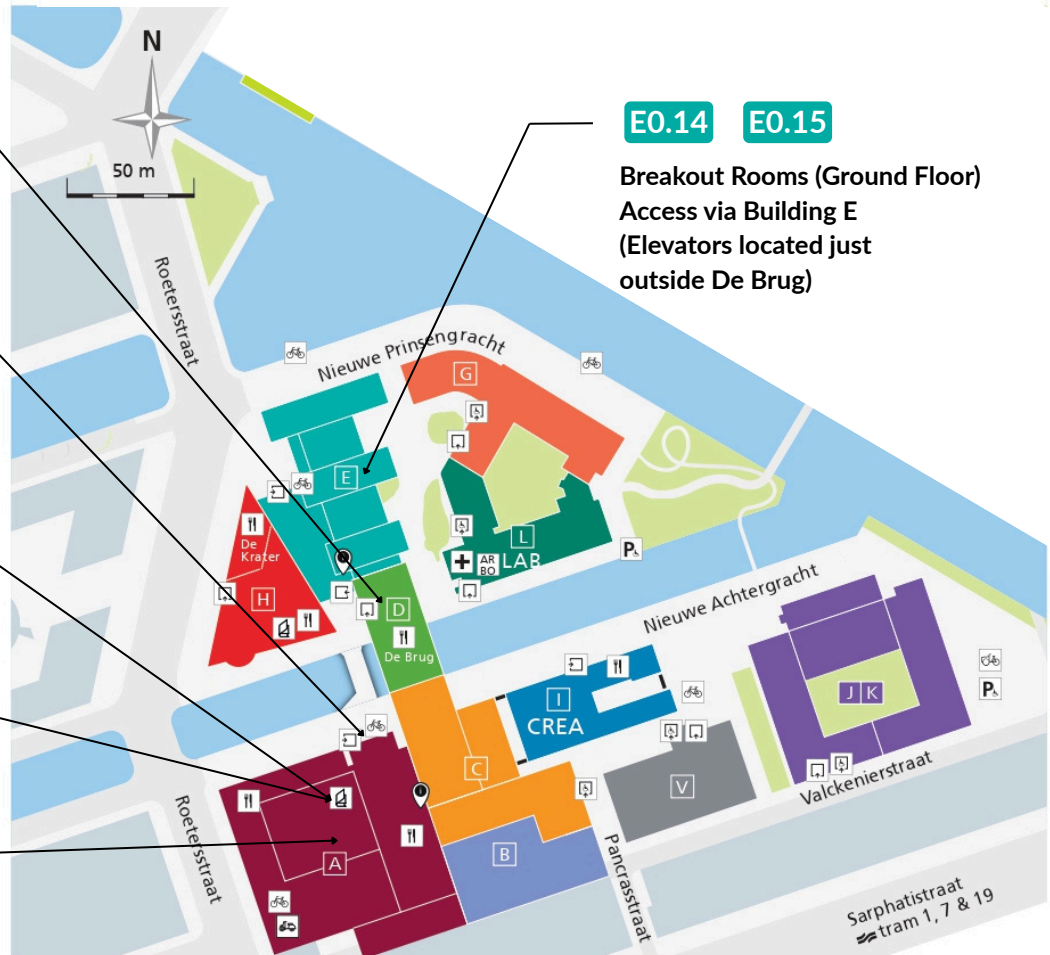
"IViR Room" (5th floor)
Access via Building A elevators

A3.15 **A3.01**

Breakout Rooms (3rd floor)
Access via A-wing elevators

A2.12 **A2.13**

Breakout Rooms (2nd floor)
Access via Building A stairs

E0.14 **E0.15**

Breakout Rooms (Ground Floor)
Access via Building E
(Elevators located just
outside De Brug)

N

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Roetersstraat

Nieuwe Prinsengracht

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De Krater

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De Brug

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Valckenierstraat

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Roetersstraat

Sarphatistraat
tram 1, 7 & 19

Conference Day 1 - Monday 16 February 2026

8.30 - 9.15	*Registration* (Registration and plenary sessions will take place in De Brug)
9.15 - 9.30	**OPENING REMARKS** **Joris van Hoboken** (Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam) and **Mireille van Eechoud** (University of Amsterdam)
9.30 - 10.30 **Plenary Panel**	**RISKS, RIGHTS, AND PLATFORM ACCOUNTABILITY** **Asha Allen** (CDT Europe), **Robert Spano** (Gibson Dunn), **Peter Chapman** (Knight-Georgetown Institute), **Rachel Griffin** (Compliant and Accountable Systems Group, University of Duisburg-Essen) Moderator: **Martin Husovec** (London School of Economics)
10.30 - 11.00	*Coffee Break*

11.00 - 12.15 **Breakout 1**	Access to Data for Vetted Researchers 📍A3.15	Rights, Risks, & the Rule of Law 📍A3.01	The DSA's Global Reach 📍A5.24	Multistakeholder Governance 📍E0.14	Deceptive Design 📍E0.15

12.15 - 13.00	*Lunch*
13.00 - 13.45 **Keynote**	**Prabhat Agarwal** (DG Connect, European Commission)
13.45 - 14.15	*Coffee Break*

14.15 - 15.30 **Breakout 2**	Out-of-Court Dispute Settlement 📍A3.15	Systemic Risks: Boundaries & Blind Spots 📍A3.01	User Reporting & Redress in Practice 📍A5.24	Enforcement & Platform Governance 📍E0.14	Social Media Advertising & Consumers 📍E0.15

15.30 - 16.00	*Coffee Break / Poster Setup in De Brug*
16.00 - 16.45 **Keynote**	**Paddy Leerssen** (Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam)
16:45 – 18:00 **Plenary Panel**	**PLATFORM POWER, MARKETS, AND DEMOCRACY** **Martijn Snoep** (ACM), **Anna Gerbrandy** (Utrecht University), **Thomas Höppner** (Geradin Partners), **Mark Dempsey** (Article 19) Moderator: **Natali Helberger** (Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam)
18.00 - 20.00	*Reception, Buffet Dinner, and Poster Session* (Theme: The DSA's Risk-Based Approach)

Conference Day 2 – Tuesday 17 February 2026

09.00 - 09.15	*Walk in*				
09.15 - 10.30 Breakout 3	**The DSA & the DMA** 📍 A3.15	**DSA Categories & Designation** 📍 A3.01	**Systemic Risks & Protection of Minors** 📍 A5.24	**National Implementation & Enforcement** 📍 A2.12	
10.30 - 11.00	*Coffee Break*				
11.00 - 12.15 Breakout 4	**Private Enforcement** 📍 A3.15	**Disinformation & Decentralized Governance** 📍 A3.01	**Scraping, APIs, & Access to Platform Data** 📍 A5.24	**Auditability & Observability** 📍 A2.12	**Design Risks & User Empowerment** 📍 A2.13
12.15 - 13.00	*Lunch*				
13.00 - 14.00 Plenary Panel	**PLATFORM REGULATION AND AI** **Michael Veale** (UCL), **Natali Helberger** (University of Amsterdam), **Seda Guerses** (TU Delft), **Peggy Valcke** (KU Leuven) Moderator: **João Quintais** (Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam)				
14.00 - 14.30	*Coffee Break*				
14.30 - 15.45 Breakout 5	**AI & the DSA** 📍 A3.15	**Platform Power & Freedom of Expression** 📍 A3.01	**Systemic Risks: Elections & Foreign Influence** 📍 A5.24	**Content Moderation Transparency & Norms** 📍 A2.12	**Data Access: Institutional Barriers & Best Practices** 📍 A2.13
15.45 - 16.15	*Coffee break*				
16.15 - 17.30 Plenary Panel	**EUROPEAN PLATFORM REGULATION, MOVING (IT) FORWARD** **David Kaye** (UC Irvine), **Anne-Marie Pollock** (CnaM Ireland), **Remy Chavannes** (Brinkhof), **Wolfgang Schulz** (Leibniz Institute of Media Research | Hans-Bredow-Institut, HIIG), **Athina Tsitsou** (DG Connect, European Commission) Moderator: **Joris van Hoboken** (University of Amsterdam)				
17.30 - 17.45	**Closing remarks**				

Opening Remarks

9.15-9:30
De Brug

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Speakers

Joris van Hoboken,
Institute for Information Law
University of Amsterdam

Mireille van Eechoud,
Dean, Faculty of Law
University of Amsterdam

The DSA and Platform Regulation Conference 2026

Plenary Panel

Rights, Risks, and Platform Accountability

9.30-10.30
De Brug

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Speakers

Asha Allen, CDT Europe

Robert Spano, Gibson Dunn

Peter Chapman, Knight-Georgetown Institute

Rachel Griffin, Compliant and Accountable Systems Group, University of Duisburg-Essen

Moderator
Martin Husovec, London School of Economics

The DSA and Platform Regulation Conference 2026

DSA Observatory

Breakout Session 1

11.00-12.15

📍 **A3.15**

Access to Data for Vetted Researchers

Chair
Claes de Vreese
University of Amsterdam

Understanding researchers' needs in Article 40(4) DSA data access: what did the Delegated Act respond to and what remains unaddressed?

Mathis Rodriguez, Luka Bekavac, Alice Palmieri, and Aurelia Tamò-Larrieux
University of Lausanne
University of St. Gallen

Considering the Rival Nature of Data in Data Access Requests
Ayelet Gordon-Tapiero, Muhammad Saad, Katrina Ligett, and Kobbi Nissim
Hebrew University
Georgetown University

From Access to Data Management: Research Infrastructure as the Missing Link in Platform Data Access under the DSA
Olivier Rouquette, Yannik Peters, Katrin Weller, and Sebastian Stier
GESIS | Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

Where the rubber hits the road: what's holding back DSA researcher data access efforts and what can be done to boost platform accountability and transparency?

Mark Scott, Anna Marchese, Daniela Stockmann, and Thomas Asher
Atlantic Council
Columbia University
Hertie School

📍 **A3.01**

Rights, Risks, and the Rule of Law

Chair
Tarlach McGonagle
University of Amsterdam

The Blurring of the Public-Private Dichotomy in Risk-Based EU Digital Regulation: Challenges for the Rule of Law

Charlotte Ducuing and Andrea Palumbo
KU Leuven

Rights vs risks: the DSA as a mandatory human rights due diligence instrument

Stefania Di Stefano
National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts (Cnam)

Systemic Risk mitigation, design choices and content neutrality in the Digital Services Act

Rafael Bezerra Nunes
European University Institute

Governing Platforms through Risk: A Critical Reading of the First DSA Systemic Risk Reports

Magdalena Jóźwiak
University of Amsterdam

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A5.24

The DSA's Global Reach

Chair
Kati Cseres
University of Amsterdam

DSA meets World: How the "comprehensive digital censorship law" actually impacts global regulation on digital services

Matthias Kettemann
Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society

The Global Reach of the Digital Services Act: Lessons from Turkey's Implementation of Transparency Report Rules

Muhammed Fatih Taşçı
Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakif University

Aligning with and Departing from the DSA: Canada's Online Harms Experiment

Emily Laidlaw and Taylor Owen
University of Calgary
McGill University

The rise of systemic risk obligations in Brazilian platform regulation: a tale of influence, divergence and complementarity

Nicolo Zingales and Marina Lucena
FGV

E0.14

Multistakeholder Governance

Chair
Laurens Naudts
University of Amsterdam

Building public accountability and transparency in digital platform governance: the functions of regulatory intermediaries under the EU Digital Services Act

Philipp Darius
Hertie School

Unlocking the Transparency Potential of the DSA: Key Takeaways from the event 'Hack the DSA

Suzanne Vergnolle and Stefania Di Stefano
National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts (Cnam)

Who speaks and who is heard? Civil society participation and participatory justice in DSA systemic risk management

Mateus Correia de Carvalho and Rachel Griffin
European University Institute
University of Duisburg-Essen

Shared Responsibility, Unequal Power: Mapping the limitations of multistakeholderism in EU's digital governance

Charis Papaevangelou, Sabrina Kutscher, Natali Helberger, José van Dijck, and Thomas Poell
University of Amsterdam
Tilburg University
University of Utrecht

E0.15

Deceptive Design

Chair
Inge Graef
Tilburg University

Dark Patterns and the EU Digital Services Act: Mapping Autonomy Violations and Design Factors

Johanna Gunawan, Sanju Ahuja, Nataliia Bielova, and Cristiana Santos
Maastricht University
Côte d'Azur University
Utrecht University

Dark Patterns on Online Platforms: The Interplay Between the Digital Services Act (Art. 25) and the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive

Benjamin Raue
Trier University

What the DSA and the AI Act can do about deceptive design and subliminal techniques: The case of LLM-powered advertising agents

Alice Baroni, Sally Broughton Micova, and Daniela Jimenez
University of East Anglia

Dark Patterns' Double Darkness and How Its Undertheorization Hampers Regulation and Enforcement

Marijn Sax
University of Amsterdam

Keynote

13.00-13.45
De Brug

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Prabhat Agarwal
DG Connect, European Commission

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Breakout Session 2

14.15-15.30

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📍 **A3.15**

Out-of-Court Dispute Settlement

Chair
Pietro Ortolani
Radboud University

Fundamental Rights in Out of Court Dispute Settlement under Article 21 DSA

Hannah Ruschemeier and João Pedro Quintais
University of Osnabrück
University of Amsterdam

Diversities and discrepancies: Procedural Fairness in DSA Out-of-Court Dispute Settlement

Andrej Krištofík, Ondřej Woznica, and Matěj Myška
Masaryk University

The implementation of Article 21 DSA on Out-of-Court Dispute Settlement: first reflections, challenges, and possible solutions

Yuliya Radanova and Leonardo D'Urso
ADR Center

Making the DSA work – effective enforcement of user rights through out-of-court dispute settlement

Niklas Eder and Hannah Ruschemeier
User Rights
University of Osnabrück

The Role of ODS Bodies in enhancing user rights and providing crucial data

Anna MacCarthy Adams and Sophie-Charlotte Walter
Appeals Centre Europe

📍 **A3.01**

Systemic Risks: Boundaries and Blind Spots

Chair
Balázs Bodó
University of Amsterdam

On the boundaries of risk-bound research

LK Seiling
Weizenbaum Institute

Blind spots of the DSA? Operationalizing gendered disinformation as a systemic risk

Martha Stolze, Rachel Griffin, LK Seiling, and Philipp Darius
Weizenbaum Institute
Sciences Po
Hertie School

Climate disinformation and the DSA's systemic risk framework

David Kaye
University of California, Irvine

Reimagining Article 36: Chronic Digital Repression and Palestinian Voices in Europe

Tom Divon
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

A5.24

User Rights and Redress in Practice

Chair
Nienke Palstra
People vs. Big Tech

User Rights Under Pressure: Shortcomings and violations of Art. 16, 20 and 21 DSA

Franziska Benning and Josephine Ballon
HateAid

Between Click and Consequence: An Evaluation of Platform Reporting Procedures for German Online Users on X, TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook under Article 16 of the Digital Services Act

Lena-Maria Böswald, Corinna Dolezalek, Pablo Jost, and Ursula Kristin Schmid
Interface
Das NETTZ
Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Out-of-court dispute settlement (ODS) bodies under the Digital Services Act: A new frontier for legal mobilisation?

Valentina Golunova
Maastricht University

E0.14

Enforcement and Platform Governance

Chair
Aleksandra Kuczerawy
KU Leuven

Enforcing Platform Regulation: Conflicts and Pathways in the EU

Giovanni De Gregorio and Anna Vicinanza
Catholic University of Portugal
University of Bologna

The Maths and Politics of Centralised Enforcement: A Collective Learning Process?

Anna Morandini
European University Institute

Empowering the Enforcers in the Digital Age

Rūta Liepiņa
University of Bologna

Indirect Harmonisation through Criminal Compliance under the Digital Services Act: Systemic Risks, Private Actors, and the Redefinition of Illegal Content

Beatrice Panattoni
University of Luxembourg

E0.15

Social Media Advertising and Consumers

Chair
Owen Bennett
Independent Consultant

The regulation of social media commerce under the DSA: A consumer protection perspective

Laura Aade
University of Luxembourg

A promise of transparency: Governance of commercial content disclosure through the Digital Services Act

Taylor Annabell and Catalina Goanta
Cardiff University
Utrecht University

Bridging the Gap Between Legal Intent and Algorithmic Reality: Empirical Evidence of Profiling-Based Commercial Communications to Minors on Social Media Platforms

Sára Soľárová and Matúš Mesarčík
Kempelen Institute of Intelligent Technologies

Online behavioural advertising, consumer empowerment and fair competition: Are the DSA transparency obligations the right answer?

Martin Senftleben and Elena Izyumenko
University of Amsterdam

Keynote

Shareholders' Values: Platform Regulation and Tech Oligarchy

Paddy Leerssen

Institute for Information Law,
University of Amsterdam

16.00-16.45
De Brug

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DSA Observatory

Plenary Panel

Platform Power, Markets, and Democracy

16.45-18.00

De Brug

Speakers

Martijn Snoep, Netherlands Authority for Consumer and Markets (ACM)

Anna Gerbrandy, Utrecht University

Thomas Höppner, Geradin Partners

Mark Dempsey, Article 19

Moderator

Natali Helberger,
Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam

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Poster Session

The DSA's Risk-Based Approach

18.00-20.00

De Brug

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Risk Assessment and Measurement

The Delineation of Disinformation as a Risk Object in Systemic Risk Assessment Reports of Very Large Online Platforms

Isabel Kusche
University of Bamberg

Assessing Systemic Risks under the DSA: A Methodological Framework Applied to Asymmetric Amplification in the Context of Elections

Anna Katzy-Reinshagen, Jan Beyer, and Beatriz Saab,
Institute for Strategic Dialogue

Measuring the State of Online Disinformation in Europe: First Structural Indicators under the DSA Framework

Emmanuel Vincent and Daiana Crisan
Science Feedback
Sciences Po

The Polarization Footprint, a methodology to measure societal divides on social media

Luke Thorburn, Helena Puig Larrauri, Caleb Gichuhi, Allan Cheboi, Guy Banim, and Benjamin Cerigo
Build Up
King's College London

Risk Governance and Oversight

Managing risks is a risky business - the political economy of risk based regulation in the EU

Balázs Bodó
University of Amsterdam

What scientific research programme does DSA Article 40 enable?

Przemyslaw Grabowicz, Alistair Knott, Dino Pedreschi, Susan Leavy, and David Eyers
University College Dublin
Victoria University of Wellington
University of Pisa
University of Otago

Imagining better platforms: the role of simulations in platform governance from theoretical and regulators' perspective

Max van Drunen and Natali Helberg
University of Amsterdam

Platform badges for civic communication: An interdisciplinary discussion of a risk mitigation measure pursuant to Art. 35 DSA

Jan Rau, Jan-Ole Harfst, Tobias Mast
Leibniz-Institute for Media Research

DSA Audits: What are they good for? Evaluating the first audit cycle under Article 37 of the Digital Services Act

John Albert
University of Amsterdam

Breakout Session 3

9.15-10.30

📍 **A3.15**

The DSA and The DMA

Chair
Joost Poort
University of Amsterdam

EU Big Tech Laws: An Emerging Public Utilities Regulation

Alexandre de Streel
University of Namur

Squaring the circle with the DSA's antitrust aspects

Katarzyna Klafkowska and Miłosz Malaga
Adam Mickiewicz University

Systemic risks to media pluralism – where the DSA and DMA meet again

Sally Broughton Micova
University of East Anglia

Big Tech Tactics under the DSA and DMA: From Contestation to Compliance

Inge Graef, Pratiksha Ashok, and Friso Bostoen
Tilburg University

📍 **A3.01**

DSA Categories and Designations

Chair
Martin Senftleben
University of Amsterdam

In or out? AMAR (active monthly average recipients), VLOP/VLOSE designation, and the risk of regulatory capture under the DSA

Marie-José Garot
IE University

What is an online platform? Categorising WhatsApp's and Telegram's group chat and channel functionalities under the DSA

Sarah Eskens
Vrije University Amsterdam

The DSA and its far-reaching implications for adtech and online advertising

Frederik Zuiderveen Borgesius and Pieter Wolters
Radboud University

Intermediaries or nonintermediaries? Legal uncertainty in the categorisation of music streaming services and the application of transparency rules under the DSA

Aline Iramina
University of Glasgow

📍 A5.24

Systemic Risks and Protection of Minors

Chair
Magdalena Jóźwiak
University of Amsterdam

Mind the Gap: Age Assurance and its Enforcement under EU Law

Jessica Galissaire
Interface

Supporting minors in addressing illegal content within restricted-access platforms: a DSA and data protection law perspective

Daniele Sborlini
University of Bologna

From Safeguarding to Softening? How the Commission's Minors' Guidelines Retreat from the DSA's Promise of Stronger Data Protection

Julian Morgan
Humboldt University Berlin

Systemic in Name Only? Assessing Reported Systemic Risks to Minors under the DSA

Alice Palmieri, Tobias Mahler, and Aurelia Tamò-Larrieux
University of Lausanne
University of Oslo

📍 A2.12

National Implementation and Enforcement

Chair
Anna van Duin
University of Amsterdam

National Implementation and enforcement frameworks of the Digital Services Act across the European Union Member States

Tomás Agustín Alassia Sarmiento
Autonomous University of Madrid
CNMC

A Framework for the Risk Assessment of Non-VLOPSE Intermediary Services under the DSA

**Petra Macková, Andrea Horváthová, Miloš Kanjak, Jakub Rybár, Katarína Drevená, and Romana Kontírová**
Council for Media Services, Slovakia

Regulatory cooperation between DSA and GDPR supervisory authorities: a good administration and judicial remedy appraisal

Nissim Picard
Maastricht University

Ireland's Online Safety Code for Video-Sharing Platforms: A (Country-of) Origin Story

Stephen King
A&L Goodbody LLP
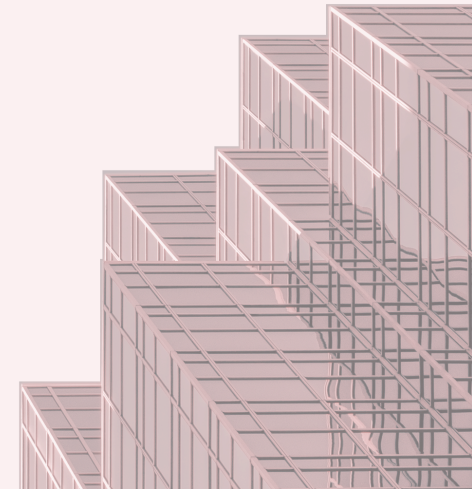
Breakout Session 4

11.00-12.15

📍 **A3.15**

Private Enforcement

Chair
Lotje Beek
Bits of Freedom

Private enforcement of the Digital Services Act (DSA)

Anna Van Duin, Paddy Leerssen, and Joris Van Hoboken
University of Amsterdam

Contractual or Non-Contractual? The Difficult but Necessary Qualification of Disputes Arising from the DSA Regarding its Private Enforcement

Rosa Pla Almendros
University of Valencia

Investigating tech platform compliance with the Digital Services Act
Nienke Palstra
People vs. Big Tech

Private enforcement of user rights: Insights from Bits of Freedom's case against Meta

Evelyn Austin
Bits of Freedom

Data access litigation: Insights from Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte's case against X

Jürgen Bering
Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte (GFF)

📍 **A3.01**

Disinformation and Decentralized Governance

Chair
Anna Mazgal
Wikimedia Europe

The Digital Services Act, Wikipedia, and Election Disinformation Regulation

Ronan Fahy, Gabriela Trogrlić, Joris van Hoboken, David Abella, and David Laniado
University of Amsterdam
Eurecat - Technology Centre of Catalonia

Community-based content moderation and compliance challenges: Wikipedia's banned sources policy as a response to disinformation

Stefanie Boss
University of Amsterdam

Trusted Content Creators

Martin Husovec
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Beyond Platform Capitalism: Developing Commons-Based Digital Governance to Address Media Literacy Crises - The Case of Bulgaria

Keith Peter Kiely and Iglika Ivanova
Sofia University (GATE)

A5.24

Scraping, APIs, and Access to Platform Data

Chair
Heleen Janssen
University of Amsterdam

Platform Datasets: Challenges, Insights, and Examples for Researchers under Article 40 of the Digital Services Act

Jeff Allen, Matt Motyl, Spencer Gurley, and Sofia Bonilla
Integrity Institute

From Promise to Practice: Evaluating Research Data Access Under the DSA

Salvatore Romano, Martin Degeling, Natalie Kerby, Miazia Schueler, Natalia Stanusch, and Raziye Buse Çetin
AI Forensics

Beneficial Content Scraping and the GDPR

Daphne Keller
Stanford

A2.12

Auditability and Observability

Chair
Kristina Irion
University of Amsterdam

Designing for Accountability: Legal Design and Auditability of Platform Obligations under the Digital Services Act

Marie-Therese Sekwenz
TU Delft

Towards Observability in Content Moderation: A Legal-Technical Proposal under the DSA

Alexandros Alevizopoulos
King's College London

Auditing Risks of Platforms in Use: A User Side Observability Agenda for the DSA

Claire Stravato Emes
Sciences Po

Transparency by Inquiry: Using Middleware to Strengthen the DSA Framework

Niva Elkin-Koren, Shlomi Hod, Maayan Perel, and Yonatan Lourie
Tel Aviv University
Weizenbaum Institute

A2.13

Design Risks and User Empowerment

Chair
Max van Drunen
University of Amsterdam

Addictive design as a systemic risk under the Digital Services Act: an analysis of VLOPSEs' risk assessments

Cecilia Isola
University of Genoa

Auditing Recommender Systems for User Empowerment in Very Large Online Platforms under the Digital Services Act

Matteo Fabbri
University of Amsterdam

Breaking the Loop: Exploring User Agency in Escaping Algorithmic Rabbit Holes on Social Media

Katarzyna Szymielewicz, Dorota Głowacka, and Piotr Sapieżyński,
Panoptykon Foundation
Northeastern University

Plenary Panel

Platform Regulation and AI

13.00-14.00
De Brug

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Speakers

Michael Veale, University College London

Natali Helberger, University of Amsterdam

Seda Guerses, TU Delft

Peggy Valcke, KU Leuven

Moderator

João Quintais,
Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam

The DSA and Platform Regulation Conference 2026

Breakout Session 5

14.30-15.45

📍 **A3.15**

AI and the DSA

Chair
Plixavra Vogiatzoglou
University of Amsterdam

The DSA and the AI ecosystem: search and information retrieval revisited

Sebastian Schwemer and Tobias Mahler
BI Norwegian Business School
University of Copenhagen
University of Oslo

From Curation to Creation? Generative AI and Content Moderation at the Intersection of the DSA and the AI Act

Marco Bassini and Giovana Lopes
Tilburg University

From 'Googling' to 'Asking ChatGPT': the Regulation and Moderation of AI-Powered Search

Raziye Buse Çetin, Natalia Stanusch, Salvatore Romano, and Marc Faddul,
AI Forensics

Regulating Deepfakes under the Digital Services Act

Lea Katharina Kumkar and Nicolaj Feltes
Trier University

📍 **A3.01**

Platform Power and Freedom of Expression

Chair
Chinmayi Arun
Yale University

Governance by Emulation: The Oversight Board, the Digital Services Act, and the Struggle for Platform Governance

Moritz Schramm
New York University

Shadowbans on Trial: Vandendriessche v. Meta and the Future of User Rights Enforcement

Babette De Naeyer
Universitat Pompeu Fabra

The invisible risk. State Power and Freedom of Expression Under the DSA

Agustina Del Campo, Nicolás Zara, and Ramiro Álvarez Ugarte
Center for Studies on Freedom of Expression (CELE)

The Trump Effect on DSA Enforcement & Content Moderation

Berin Szóka
Dublin City University

A5.24

Systemic Risks: Elections and Foreign Influence

Chair
Ronan Fahy
University of Amsterdam

Putting the DSA's systemic risk regulation to the election test. How the DSA fared as a tool to manage risks to election integrity and civic discourse in recent European elections

Luise Quaritsch
Hertie School

The DSA in the Face of Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI): Criminalization, Monitoring, and Sanctioning through Structured Technical Traceability

Carlos Galán and Javier Valencia
Nebrija University

Assessing Platform Responses to Reports of Illegal and Terms of Service-Violating Content: A Methodological Framework and Preliminary Cross-Platform Findings from One Year of Monitoring

Francesca Arcostanzo and Jan Beyer
Institute for Strategic Dialogue

War Influencers in the EU Legal Framework: How the Digital Services Act Applies to Conflict-Related Content

Sara Gallone
University of Bologna

A2.12

Content Moderation Transparency and Norms

Chair
Damian Tambini
London School of Economics

The Struggle for Content Moderation Transparency: Comparing Voluntary and DSA-Mandated Reports

Débora Salles, Bruno Mattos, and R. Marie Santini
University of Rio de Janeiro

The DSA Transparency Database: lifting the veil over content moderation, or castle in the sky? A critical assessment of the DSA Transparency Database and its effectiveness in enabling scrutiny over content moderation decisions

Eline Leijten
Vrije University Amsterdam

The Making of Content Moderation Norms in the Digital Public Sphere: The Normative Effects of Content Moderators' Work

Clément Le Ludec and Benjamin Loveluck
Télécom Paris
Paris-Panthéon-Assas University

From Practice to Principle: Developing a Code of Conduct for (Semi-)Automated Content Moderation

Maurice Stenzel, Matthias Kettemann, Katharina Mosene, Philipp Mahlow, Daniel Pothmann, and Sarah Spitz
Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society

A2.13

Data Access: Institutional Barriers and Best Practices

Chairs
Theo Araujo and Catalina Goanta
University of Amsterdam and Utrecht University

with support from ERC StG HUMANads

This panel builds on the European Research Council (ERC) Pilot on data access under DSA Article 40(4) and discusses institutional risks, support structures, and best practices rooted in researcher needs.

Article 40(4) of the DSA brings with it the promise of a new era of data access for researchers. Yet far less attention has been given to how data access will look within researchers' very own institutions. Earlier implementation of GDPR obligations for universities as data processors has already shaped research development and desirability, sometimes leading to risk aversion in the face of legal uncertainty.

In practice, Art. 40(4) will require institutions to enter into binding arrangements for accessing platform data, raising questions about liability and incentives. Against this backdrop, the panel explores how universities can enable, rather than discourage, DSA research.

Maliheh Mahlouji, Research Software Engineer
Tilburg University

Monica Lodi, Data Steward
Jasper Wijnen, Information Security Officer
Aino Koho, Privacy Officer
University of Amsterdam

Linda NiChualladh,
Assistant Director of Research and Strategy
Coimisiún na Meán (CnaM)

Plenary Panel

European Platform Regulation: Moving (it) Forward

16.15-17.30
De Brug

Speakers

David Kaye, UC Irvine

Anne-Marie Pollock, Coimisiún na Meán

Wolfgang Schulz, Leibniz Institute of Media Research | Hans-Bredow-Institut, HIIG

Remy Chavannes, Brinkhof

Athina Tsitsou, DG Connect, European Commission

Moderator

Joris van Hoboken, Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam

The DSA and Platform Regulation Conference 2026

Closing Remarks

The conference concludes with brief reflections from the organisers and an outlook on ongoing work within the DSA Observatory community.

17.30-17.45
De Brug

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Acknowledgements

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