Online platforms and e-commerce

The EU wants to ensure businesses and citizens can use online platforms and e-commerce service no matter where they are in the EU.

Online platform in other words is a big website. If you have used a search engine to find information, shopped on an online marketplace, or communicated using social media, you have used an online platform.

These websites are a key part of the online world. Over 1 million EU businesses sell goods or digital services via online platforms. And, as European citizens, we use them on a daily basis.

The EU is introducing rules to ensure that these websites foster an environment where EU business can thrive. The rules will also ensure users are treated fairly, and can use online platforms without fear of manipulative algorithms or illegal goods and content.

The EU’s approach can be defined by 3 areas of action:

1. breaking down online barriers, allowing full access to goods and services across the EU;

2. ending unjustified cross-border barriers;

3. making it easier and safer to shop online no matter where you are in the EU.
To achieve this, the Commission has proposed the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA). These acts seek to ensure European citizens can be confident in their safety online and businesses can thrive in the digital world. It is also ensuring e-commerce rules stay up to date in the Digital Decade.

**Latest**

**PRESS RELEASE | 07 June 2021**
Security Union: EU rules on removing terrorist content online enter into force

Landmark EU rules on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online entered into force this week. Platforms will have to remove terrorist content referred by Member States' authorities within 1 hour. The rules will also help to counter the spread of extremist ideologies online - a vital part of preventing attacks and addressing radicalisation.

**PRESS RELEASE | 03 June 2021**
Commission seeks views on data sharing

The European Commission has launched an open public consultation on the announced Data Act aiming to create a fair data economy by ensuring access to and use of data. The consultation seeks to gather views from citizens, businesses, online platforms, academics, civil society, administrations and all interested parties. It is open until 3 September.

**DIGIBYTE | 26 February 2021**
Final reports of the EU Observatory on the online platform economy

The EU Observatory for the Online Platform Economy, which informs the policy work of the Commission, by providing independent views on some of the key questions that have arisen in connection to the platform economy is today publishing the final reports from the expert group.
following stakeholder feedback and reactions on the progress reports which were published for consultation in July 2020.

PRESS RELEASE | 08 February 2021
Safer Internet Day 2021: A better internet for children and young people

Last Tuesday, 9 February 2021, was Safer Internet Day. Launched in 2004 and promoted by the EU-funded network of Safer Internet Centres in Member States, the day was celebrated online in more than 170 countries worldwide. The theme "Together for a better internet" is a call for everyone to join in making the internet a safer and better place, especially for children and young people.

Browse Online platforms
News article

03-03-2021
Members of the Expert group to the EU Observatory on the Online Platform Economy as from March 2021

27-10-2020
Social media influences our political behaviour and puts pressure on our democracies, new JRC report finds

16-09-2020
Call for applications to the expert group for the Observatory on the Online Platform Economy

More
Library

26-02-2021
Expert Group for the EU Observatory on the Online Platform Economy: Final reports

04-02-2021
President von der Leyen at the ‘Masters of Digital 2021' event: 'The 2020s can be Europe's Digital Decade'

16-12-2020
Impact assessment of the Digital Markets Act

More
Consultation

12-05-2021 - 02-09-2021
Public consultation on a set of European Digital Principles

02-06-2020 - 08-09-2020
Consultation on the Digital Services Act package

30-04-2018 - 25-06-2018
Public consultation on measures to further improve the effectiveness of the fight against illegal content online

More
Policy and legislation

16-12-2020
Impact assessment of the Digital Markets Act

15-12-2020
Impact assessment of the Digital Services Act

15-12-2020

More
The European Commission breaks down online barriers so that people can enjoy full access to all goods and services offered online by businesses in the EU.
The European Commission wants online platforms to thrive, and users to be treated fairly and be protected against illegal content.

The Digital Services Act package

The Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act encompass a single set of new rules applicable across the whole EU to create a safer and more open digital space.

Source URL: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/online-platforms-and-e-commerce