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NATIONAL CONVENTION ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
Roundtable for Chapter 23 – Digital Services in Albania in the framework of negotiation process - DSA Governance, Fundamental Rights and Institutional Coordination

30 June 2026, 09:00 – 11:00

RECOMMENDATIONS

Institutional Framework and Governance of DSA

- The designation of the Digital Services Coordinator (DSC) should be treated as one of the first priorities in the DSA transposition process. The selected authority should comply with the requirements established by the DSA, including institutional independence, operational autonomy, adequate financial and human resources, and sufficient technical expertise, ensuring its capacity to coordinate implementation and enforcement effectively.
- A clear institutional framework should be established by defining the respective roles and responsibilities of all competent authorities involved in DSA implementation, including AKEP, AMA, AKSK, the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data, law enforcement authorities and the judiciary. Strong coordination mechanisms should be developed in order to avoid fragmentation, overlapping competencies and institutional gaps.
- Albania should follow a phased roadmap for the transposition and implementation of the DSA, distinguishing between legislative approximation, institutional preparation and practical enforcement. The implementation sequence should ensure that institutional capacities and enforcement mechanisms are operational before the legislation becomes fully applicable.
- Particular attention should be given to the adoption of secondary legislation, internal procedures and operational protocols necessary for the effective functioning of the future implementation framework, including complaint handling, cross-border cooperation and enforcement procedures.
- The implementation process should remain aligned with evolving EU practice, including new European Commission guidelines, implementing acts and the experience of Digital Services

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Coordinators across EU Member States, ensuring consistency with future developments of the acquis.

Capacity Building, Stakeholder Engagement and Public Communication

- The implementation of the DSA should be accompanied by continuous investment in institutional capacities, including specialised human resources, technical expertise, digital infrastructure and regular professional training for all competent authorities involved in its implementation.
- Civil society organisations, academia, research institutions, the private sector and digital service providers should be actively involved throughout the legislative drafting, consultation, implementation and monitoring phases. Their expertise represents an important contribution to ensuring transparent and effective implementation of the DSA.
- Particular attention should be given to establishing structured cooperation with non-state actors, including future Trusted Flaggers and independent researchers. Transparent selection procedures, continuous dialogue and adequate safeguards should be introduced to protect their independence, credibility and effective participation in the DSA governance framework.
- Public institutions should develop a comprehensive communication strategy explaining the objectives, principles and practical implications of the DSA. Communication efforts should clarify that the Regulation establishes procedures and responsibilities for digital services rather than determining the legality of online content, thereby reducing misinformation and strengthening public trust in the reform process.
- Greater efforts should be dedicated to informing businesses, digital service providers, civil society organisations and citizens about their future rights and obligations using various dissemination tools, either public activities, awareness campaigns, online informative materials etc. under the DSA before the legislation enters into force, facilitating smoother implementation and greater legal certainty.

Implementation, User Protection and Enforcement

- The implementation of the DSA should prioritise practical effectiveness rather than merely formal legal compliance. Particular emphasis should be placed on ensuring that complaint

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mechanisms, transparency obligations, notice-and-action procedures and user remedies function efficiently and are accessible to citizens in practice.

- Competent authorities should establish accessible, transparent and efficient complaint-handling mechanisms, accompanied by clear public guidance regarding institutional competences, reporting procedures and available legal remedies for users affected by illegal online content or platform decisions.
- Special priority should be given to strengthening the protection of children and vulnerable users online through enhanced cooperation between institutions responsible for digital governance, child protection, cybersecurity, education and law enforcement, while promoting awareness-raising and preventive measures.
- Regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be introduced to assess the practical implementation of the DSA, identify emerging challenges and measure its impact on users, digital service providers and public institutions. The findings should inform future legislative and policy improvements throughout Albania's EU accession process.