

BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR POSTAL SERVICES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

Digital Services Act: Unia and the VMRI obtain the trusted flagger status

Brussels, 18 November 2025 – The Digital Services Act (DSA) aims to create a safe and reliable environment for users of digital services across the European Union. Granting the trusted flagger status is one of the tools to achieve this objective. The first trusted flaggers for our country are now known. The BIPT, the CSA and the Medienrat recognise Unia, the independent interfederal public institution that promotes equality and combats racism and discrimination, as a trusted flagger. The VRM, for its part, recognises the Flemish Human Rights Institute (Vlaams Mensenrechteninstituut). As a consequence, illegal content identified and notified by Unia and the VMRI must be treated as a priority by the online platforms concerned. Brief summary of the main subjects of the release encouraging full reading.

Unia submitted an application to be granted the status of trusted flagger which was examined by three of the four authorities responsible for the implementation of the DSA in Belgium: the Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications (BIPT), the Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel (CSA) and the Medienrat. Following a thorough analysis, they each decided to grant Unia the status of trusted flagger.

In parallel, the Flemish Regulator for the Media (Vlaamse Regulator voor de Media or VRM) handled the application for recognition as a trusted flagger submitted by the Flemish Human Rights Institute (Vlaams Mensenrechteninstituut or VMRI).

Unia, which has been active in this field of expertise for several years, has been officially recognised as a trusted flagger for **online illegal speech, specifically : discrimination, illegal hate speech and Holocaust denial.**

The VMRI obtains the status of trusted flagger for **online illegal content in relation to human rights under Flemish jurisdiction and equal treatment between persons (including persons with disabilities).**

Trusted flaggers are entities recognised by the competent authorities for their expertise in a particular field and for the quality, reliability and accuracy of the notices regarding illegal content they submit to online platforms. They play a crucial part in the detection and swift handling of potential illegal content.

Granting the status of trusted flagger is a crucial step in the implementation of the DSA in Belgium. Indeed, it enables recognised trusted flaggers to notify illegal content in their field of expertise, with a priority status, to online platforms operating in the European Union. All online platforms offering their services in the European Union, regardless of where they are established, will have to take account of this new status. Online platforms are thus required to give priority to the notices they receive, thereby ensuring that such harmful content is investigated more effectively and, if necessary, removed.

Trusted flaggers must publish at least once a year a **report** on the notices submitted, indicating their number, the type of illegal content notified, and the action taken by the provider of online platforms. This report will, first and foremost, enable the competent authorities to closely monitor the actions of the trusted flagger.

The role of the BIPT as a Digital Services Coordinator (DSC)

The BIPT is the national Digital Services Coordinator for the implementation of the DSA. In this capacity, the BIPT receives in particular complaints from users of intermediary services for non-compliance with the DSA, as well as applications for the status of trusted flagger from candidates established in Belgium.

The role of the BIPT as a competent authority

The BIPT also acts as a competent authority (federal level) alongside the CSA (French Community), Medienrat (German-speaking Community) and VRM (Flemish Community). The four competent authorities implement the DSA and ensure that providers of online intermediary services established in Belgium (or with a legal representative in Belgium) comply with their obligations. When an authority is competent to decide on an application for the status of trusted flagger, it examines the application and makes a decision.

Useful links:

- Information for platform users on trusted flaggers: <https://www.bipt.be/consumers/digital/the-digital-services-act-dsa/dsa-trusted-flaggers>
- Information for entities wishing to become trusted flaggers: <https://www.bipt.be/operators/digital/digital-services-act/trusted-flaggers>
- How to file a complaint against online platforms or search engines: <https://www.bipt.be/consumers/digital/the-digital-services-act-dsa/dsa-filing-a-complaint>
- EU list of trusted flaggers: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/trusted-flaggers-under-dsa>

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