

Meeting between Werner Stengg and Spotify


May 24 at 11:00–11:30

Werner Stengg Office 12/105 Le Berlaymont, 1049 Brussels

Participants Spotify

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Participants Cabinet of EVP Vestager:

- Werner Stengg
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The meeting took place on the initiative of Spotify to discuss the Digital Services Act (DSA), the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act, and the connectivity debate.

Spotify started the meeting by commenting on the DSA, particularly its implementation and application to Spotify. Regarding the requirement to publish user numbers, Spotify pointed to the hybrid nature of their platform, explaining their different user profiles, with some solely using their platforms' music offers while others only using their platforms' podcast services, with the latter being foremost user-generated content (UGC). Spotify communicated their efforts to discuss the method of calculation for their user base. In this context, Spotify mentioned that their categorization as a very large online platform (VLOP) would entail great internal compliance efforts. Spotify also voiced concern that the VLOP categorization will be used in other EU proposals (such as the AI Act), the legislative reach of which was originally not intended with Spotify in mind.

Furthermore, Spotify referred to developments in the AI Act, especially concerning recent developments from the European Parliament in the run-up to the trilateral negotiations. While there is general agreement on the risk-based approach, Spotify expressed concern regarding the extension of the high-risk categories in Annex III. In addition, Spotify commented on the appropriate involvement of actors throughout the AI value chain, raising uncertainties about the definitions of developing, deploying, or using AI in different parts of an AI ecosystem.

Moreover, Spotify weighed in on the future of connectivity debate. With their focus on audio instead of video products, Spotify does not understand themselves as part of the discussion, which is why they did not contribute to the public exploratory consultation. However, Spotify expressed concern about possible infringements on net neutrality in the debate and further commented on contribution options through a connectivity fund instead of network fees. Lastly, Spotify observed difficulties calculating network usage when using cloud architectures or content delivery networks (CDNs).

Werner Stengg took due note of Spotify's comments.