



Press Release

07 October 2020

Brussels

On 06 October 2020, the webinar titled “Digital Services Act: All you need to know about its importance for SMEs was held with speakers from industry and EU decision-makers.

On 06 October, the webinar titled “Digital Services Act: All you need to know about its importance for SMEs” was held, whereby it was hosted by MEP Alex Agius Saliba, Rapporteur on the Digital Services Act, and co-organised by the European Enterprise Alliance, SME Connect and EEA’s Polish Member, the Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers (ZPP).

The event follows the European Commission’s consultation on the Digital Services Act Package (DSA) which ended 08 September 2020 and also in light of the finalization of the European Parliament Reports relevant to the DSA. The discussion for the DSA has significant relevance in light of new technologies and new actors appearing on the EU markets since the e-Commerce Directive from 2000 which currently still regulates digital services.

The event was joined by Justyna Romanowska, Head of Section Digital Affairs, Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU, Victoria de Posson, Senior Manager, Public Policy, CCIA, Horst Heitz, Chair of the Steering Committee, SME Connect and Glenn Cezanne, Secretary General of the European Enterprise Alliance, and moderated by former First Minister of Administration and Digitalisation of Poland (2011-2013) and MEP (2014-2019) Michal Boni.

Key elements of discussion pertained to Gatekeeper roles, content liability, know your business customer (KYBC), as well as strengthening the EU Single Market and the importance for SMEs in this regard.

Following a brief introduction by Michal Boni, MEP Saliba set the scene by providing an overview of the discussions pertinent to the DSA and highlighted key elements of his report.

MEP Saliba stated that it was “not only about shaping the digital environment and the digital economy, but also to be a standard setter for the rest of the world.” He added that it was about “creating a level playing field between the online and offline environment.”

The keynote speech which was provided by Ms. Romanowska discussed the ins and outs of the discussions at the Council level and the perspectives of Poland on the dossier.

Justyna Romanowska: “We see the proposal as an instrument which should really address the new challenges.” She added: “It should help foster Europe’s digital competitiveness” and that “it should be an evolution of these rules which we have already and should derive from the acquis case law which we have after 20 years of e-Commerce Directive”

Interventions were thereafter provided by Glenn Cezanne, Victoria de Posson and Horst Heitz.

Glenn Cezanne: “There is a necessity to have a pragmatic approach to understand the whole digital eco-system to

involve all size companies; meaning that there is a strong interdependence between large-, medium-, small-, micro-sized companies.

Victoria de Posson: *“Having a harmonised notice and action procedure would be very beneficial for SMEs.”* She also mentioned that when it came to illegal content and a safe digital environment it was *“important to have a horizontal measure principle-based approach.”*

Horst Heitz: *“We have to also give help to the SMEs as they should not be left alone with the problem of illegal content.”*

Following the event, Marcin Nowacki, President of the EEA and Vice-President of ZPP stated that:
“On behalf of both the EEA and ZPP, I have to say I am delighted about the success of the event, not least because this topic is essential to discuss now in light of new technologies as well as the digital world becoming increasingly essential for the SME world. As ZPP we responded to the consultation and as EEA we will soon publish a position paper taking into account the dynamics of today’s discussions.”

The three European Parliament reports relevant to the Digital Services Act Package are scheduled to be voted on in the second plenary session of October 2020. The European Commission proposal for legislation is expected towards the end of 2020.

[Here you can find a recording of the event](#)

About the EEA

The European Enterprise Alliance is an independent pan-European organisation of experts, entrepreneurs and pro-market intellectuals, convinced that the best way forward is to protect economic freedoms, and in particular guarantee an equal playing field for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Equal rights and a transparent business environment enable micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to compete with global players, bringing continuity to the thoughts of the founding fathers of the EU, convinced that European integration can only be achieved by building a community of interests and increasing prosperity.

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