



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM THE FIRST DSA SYSTEMIC RISK ASSESSMENTS?

Brussels, 13 October 2023,

Yesterday, The Centre on Regulation in Europe (CERRE) brought together a distinguished panel of experts, including academia, civil society, and national regulatory authorities, to present the "[Elements for Effective Systemic Risk Assessment under the DSA](#)" [report](#) authored by [Sally Broughton Micova](#) ( CERRE Academic Co-Director/ University of East Anglia) and [Andrea Calef](#) (Lecturer in Economics/ University of East Anglia).

The online event, moderated by [Christoph Busch](#), a CERRE Research Fellow at the University of Osnabrück, featured insights from [Owen Bennett](#), International Online Safety lead at Ofcom, [Joris van Hoboken](#), Associate Professor at the University of Amsterdam, and [Maria Luisa Stasi](#), Head of Law and Policy for Digital Markets at ARTICLE 19.

On April 25, the European Commission designated 17 Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs) and 2 Very Large Online Search Engines (VLOSEs) under the Digital Services Act (DSA), endowing them with new responsibilities such as tackling disinformation, monitoring harmful online content, and safeguarding minors. Significantly, the DSA introduced a novel compliance monitoring mechanism mandating continuous risk assessments and risk mitigation actions. While the initial risk assessment reports were due by August 25, there remains keen interest in providers' systemic risk assessment methods and the challenges they encountered. The [report](#) highlights the parallels between systemic risk in finance and the digital realm, offering insights and recommendations for digital regulation.

Similarly, the CERRE event delved into crucial questions about defining the "system," assessing societal impacts, involving stakeholders, and the upcoming opportunities for stakeholder engagement in future risk assessments.

### Key insights from the event's speakers include:

- [Sally Broughton Micova](#) highlighted the need for an inclusive, multi-stakeholder process and the importance of defining and benchmarking "negative effects." She emphasised the significance of examining relationships with other actors in integrated ecosystems to understand their contribution to risk or mitigation. Risk assessments should identify and consider both internal and external sources of risk.
- [Andrea Calef](#) emphasised the importance of identifying "core players" for sound risk assessment, which may require collaboration among relevant VLOP/VLOSE providers. Concerns were raised about the concentration of auditing services, potentially leading to market risks.
- [Owen Bennett](#) underscored that risk assessments should not become mere box-ticking exercises but a means to foster a culture of responsibility in the companies.
- [Maria Luisa Stasi](#) expressed concerns about fragmented solutions and favoured involving stakeholders through social media councils over Commission Expert Groups.
- [Joris van Hoboken](#) recognised the Commission's aim to deliver value with the first risk assessments and its openness to refining processes in the future.

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For a full recording of the online event, visit our [YouTube Channel](#)

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