

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the relationship between the European Union and platform companies, and it tries to explore a debate about binding regulations regarding the moderation of illegal content online. The Regulation on preventing the dissemination of illegal terrorist content online from 2018 was applied as the case to test the arguments. The thesis applies the concept of platform governance triangle to analyse whether the Regulation has the potential to be effective. The research argues that the effectiveness of the Regulation depends on the actors competencies, the legitimization of the Regulation and how it was contested during the decision-making process, and finally on the power relations between actors and the tools to monitor and enforce the Regulation. The research shows that the EU has extensive competencies in areas of independence, representativeness and expertise due to the work of EU specialised agencies. Platform companies, on the other hand, possess unique technical competencies to moderate terrorist content online. Furthermore the specific design of the Regulation, and the fact that it was designed under the ordinary legislative procedure and was contested by various actors, suggest the Regulation is legitimate. Finally, the monitoring and enforcement tools in terms of sanctions could play a relevant factor in the effectiveness of the Regulation.

Keywords

counter-terrorism policy, European Union, private actors, platform governance triangle, terrorist content online

Title

Platform governance triangle: The case of the EU Regulation on preventing the dissemination of illegal terrorist content online