



## PRESS RELEASE

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### EDPS launches pilot phase of two social media platforms

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) launches today the public pilot phase of two social media platforms: [EU Voice](#) and [EU Video](#).

EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies (EUIs) participating in the pilot phase of these platforms will be able to interact with the public by sharing short texts, images and videos on **EU Voice**; and by sharing, uploading, commenting videos and podcasts on **EU Video**.

The two platforms are part of decentralised, free and open-source social media networks that connect users in a privacy-oriented environment, based on Mastodon and PeerTube software. By launching the pilot phase of **EU Voice** and **EU Video**, the EDPS aims to contribute to the European Union's strategy for data and digital sovereignty to foster Europe's independence in the digital world.

**Wojciech Wiewiórowski, EDPS, said:** *“With the pilot launch of EU Voice and EU Video, we aim to offer alternative social media platforms that prioritise individuals and their rights to privacy and data protection. In concrete terms this means, for example, that EU Voice and EU Video do not rely on transfers of personal data to countries outside the European Union and the European Economic Area; there are no advertisements on the platforms; and there is no profiling of individuals that may use the platforms. These measures, amongst others, give individuals the choice on and control over how their personal data is used.”*

The EDPS and the European Commission's Directorate General for Informatics (DIGIT) have collaborated closely throughout the development of EU Voice and EU Video. In line with the goals of [the Commission's Open Source Software Strategy 2020 - 2023](#), DIGIT's technical assistance to the EDPS proves the importance of inter-institutional cooperation on open source as an enabler of privacy rights and data protection, therefore contributing to the EU's technological sovereignty.

The launch of the pilot phase of EU Voice and EU Video will help the EDPS to test the platforms in practice by collecting feedback from participating EUIs. The EDPS hopes that this first step will mark a continuity in the use of privacy-compliant social media platforms.

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## Background information

The rules for data protection in the EU institutions, as well as the duties of the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), are set out in **Regulation (EU) 2018/1725**.

**Wojciech Wiewiórowski** (EDPS), was appointed by a joint decision of the European Parliament and the Council on to serve a five-year term, beginning on 6 December 2019

**Personal data:** [see EDPS Glossary](#)

**Processing personal data:** [see EDPS Glossary](#)

**Privacy:** the right of an individual to be left alone and in control of information about his or herself. The right to privacy or private life is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 12), the European Convention of Human Rights (Article 8) and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights (Article 7). The Charter also contains an explicit right to the protection of personal data (Article 8).

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) is the independent supervisory authority for the protection of personal data and privacy and promoting good practice in the EU institutions and bodies.

He does so by:

- ) monitoring the EU administration's processing of personal data;
- ) monitoring and advising technological developments on policies and legislation that affect privacy and personal data protection;
- ) carrying out investigations in the form of data protection audits/inspections;
- ) cooperating with other supervisory authorities to ensure consistency in the protection of personal

**EDPS - The EU's Independent Data Protection Authority**

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