



### HATE SPEECH AND ONLINE HATE SPEECH: PROBLEMS OF DEFINITION AND REGULATION IN LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND EUROPEAN LEGISLATIVE INTERVENTIONS

The term *hate speech* is frequently used to label and condemn various forms of communication that disseminate defamatory, discriminatory, or disparaging content, as well as to incite hatred and violence. While not a new phenomenon, hate speech has acquired new dimensions and characteristics in the contemporary era primarily due to the significant role of the Internet and social media as key platforms for the dissemination of ideas, opinions, and, more broadly, both individual and collective thought.

This paper first examines how the broader issue of hate speech has been addressed within the framework of international and European legal instruments. It then focuses on the content and scope of specific measures adopted by the European Union to tackle the issue of online hate speech, taking into account its unique features and challenges.