

Question for written answer E-003970/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Hilde Vautmans (Renew)

Subject: Online platforms

In recent years, the European Commission has taken many steps to better protect children's rights online. Although there appear to be sufficient legal frameworks in place to address the known challenges, these policy initiatives have had less of an impact that one would have hoped¹. Analyses and reports by the European Commission show that certain legal frameworks are in need of a 'digital update', that existing legislation is not being adequately enforced and that international cooperation on law enforcement is insufficiently effective. The Commission is taking steps – the recent guidelines on the Digital Services Act are one such example – but the protection of children online is fragmented across various legal frameworks and requires coordinated legal action across Member State borders and even legal frameworks. The following questions arise in this regard:

1. How will trusted flaggers be financially supported in view of their increased workload?
2. How will digital services coordinators be encouraged to run campaigns to encourage children/young people to report more, and how will the Commission ensure strong cooperation between the various national supervisory authorities and more cross-border legal action?
3. Will guidelines be drawn up for the risk assessments referred to in Article 34 of the regulation, and what industry standards will be developed for age verification and age estimation?

Submitted: 8.10.2025

¹

https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/123522/?_gl=1*m9jq0p*_ga*MTgxNDQyOTcwMy4xNzU3MDgzNTAy*_ga_LWTEVFESYX*cze3NTcwODM1MDEkbzEkZzAkDE3NTcwODM1MDQkajYwJGwwJGgw*_gcl_au*MTI0Njk4MDYzNS4xNzU3MDgzNTA1