

Question for written answer E-004506/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Penalties and advertising controls for online gambling on Meta and other platforms

Many online betting sites operating in the European Union are not authorised, do not pay any taxes where their services are used and do not comply with player protection requirements, especially when it comes to minors. This creates unfair competition for legal operators, who are subject to strict rules on transparency, fairness and addiction prevention.

These illegal operators promote their services through targeted ads on social media – often aimed at vulnerable groups – that potentially breach the Digital Services Act (DSA). Meta is a key platform for this type of advertising, despite the more stringent assessment and moderation requirements laid down by the DSA regarding the spreading of illegal content through its services, as well as potential negative effects on minors and on the physical and mental well-being of individuals.

1. Does the Commission consider that these practices constitute a breach of the DSA?
2. If so, what measures will it take to put an end to ads for banned online gambling sites on online platforms?
3. Can the Commission clarify how it will ensure that the penalties provided for in the DSA will be fully applied – including against very large platforms such as Meta – if they do not comply with the requirements applicable to gambling advertising?

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