

**Question for written answer E-001173/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Age verification procedures: risks to privacy and data security

As part of measures aiming to restrict minors' access to social media, platforms are required to verify the age of users effectively.

Some low-risk verification methods exist, such as checking how long an account has been active or whether a payment method has been registered.

However, other methods rely on the transfer of sensitive data, such as proof of identity or facial recognition, often through a third-party authenticator. As a result, they pose significant risks to privacy and data security, owing to a mass rise in hacking (now facilitated by artificial intelligence). On top of this, the platforms concerned are obliged to share their information with certain states, including third countries.

1. Will the Commission commit to not forcing platforms to adopt age verification procedures that could be hacked?
2. How can we protect our fellow citizens from multiple national, European and foreign public authorities seeking to use age verification and digital identification to extend their surveillance at the expense of our fundamental rights?
3. Why not introduce measures designed to limit time spent on social media, which would be inherently less intrusive?

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