

**Question for written answer E-001497/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: ‘Dark patterns’ in online services

A complaint has recently been lodged under the Digital Services Act alleging that YouTube, as a very large online platform, imposes a profiling-based recommendation system on users by default and does not provide a sufficiently accessible alternative that avoids personalisation based on user data. According to the complainants, certain interface design practices may make it difficult for users to find or use non-personalised recommendation options, raising concerns about the potential use of deceptive or manipulative design techniques.

These allegations also highlight broader concerns regarding ‘dark patterns’ in online services, which may influence users’ behaviour or limit their ability to exercise meaningful choice when interacting with digital platforms.

Can the Commission indicate how it will tackle potential breaches of the Digital Services Act linked to recommendation systems and interface design, and ensure that platforms effectively provide accessible alternatives to profiling-based recommendations?

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