

**Question for written answer E-001619/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Need for technical assurance of security, reliability and protection of personal data in the new European Commission age verification app

The Commission recently announced that the new age verification app to protect minors online is technically ready.¹ The provision of this app aims to create a standardised way of verifying the age of users for major technology platforms across the Union.²

However, experts who have examined the open source code of the app have identified significant weaknesses, such as insufficient protection of stored sensitive personal data and the possibility of bypassing authentication mechanisms.³

The fact that the app was presented as technically ready, while at the same time acknowledged to be a ‘demo version’ under continuous development, raises issues of personal data protection and institutional credibility.

Taking into account recent FRA data, according to which the vast majority of European citizens support the imposition of age limits on the use of social media, citing risks such as exploitation, exposure to harmful content and addiction⁴, and that the introduction of minimum age limits for access to social networks should meet strict conditions for secure age verification that protect personal data, such as encrypted zero-knowledge proof of age, without storing identity⁵:

1. How does the Commission assess the technical weaknesses identified and what specific corrective measures have already been taken to make the app fully secure?
2. Does the Commission intend to reassess the implementation schedule of the app until full compliance with European security, reliability and data protection standards is ensured?

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¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/da/statement_26_817. The system is based on the ‘zero-knowledge proof’ method, which means that social media users will be able to verify their age without sharing personal data with the platforms.

² Under the EU Digital Services Act, platforms that will be required to restrict access to minors are not obliged to use the Union app. However, they will have to demonstrate that the tools they will use are equally effective, safe, reliable and protect personal data.

³ <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-brussels-launched-age-checking-app-hackers-say-took-them-2-minutes-break-it/>.

⁴ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2026/europeans-deeply-concerned-about-childrens-use-social-media>.

⁵ See European Parliament resolution of 26 November 2025 on the protection of minors online.