

**Question for written answer E-001916/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Increased risks of digital surveillance through age verification and the DSA

Recent statements by the Commissioner for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy regarding age verification systems and the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the future integration of these mechanisms into the European Digital Identity Wallet are giving rise to growing concerns among many European citizens about the protection of anonymity and freedom of expression online.

Although the Commission has not announced a ban on VPNs, public debates on preventing age verification systems from being bypassed by using VPNs or other technical means are creating the impression of a digital system gradually being built to control internet access.

Many citizens fear that mechanisms initially presented as tools to protect minors may in future be used to limit anonymous expression, enhance online censorship and monitor online activity more widely. Meanwhile, cybersecurity experts have already highlighted serious technical weaknesses in relevant prototype age verification systems.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it considering measures to restrict or prevent the use of VPNs in the context of age verification systems or the DSA?
2. How is it ensured that these systems will not lead to the indirect removal of anonymous internet access?
3. Who is legally and financially accountable in the event of a mass leak of personal data from such digital identification infrastructure?

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