

**Question for written answer E-001989/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Dick Erixon (ECR)

Subject: Possible EU ban on VPN services

The Commission has urged Member States to accelerate the deployment of online age verification tools. At the Commission press conference on 29 April 2026, a question was raised about whether minors could use VPN services to circumvent such tools. In reply, Commission Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen stated that it is difficult to make any technological solution impossible to circumvent. She added that the Commission must ensure the implementation of the rules and will look at preventing circumvention, in particular for high-risk services.

VPN services are widely used by businesses, public authorities, journalists, lawyers, doctors and private individuals, including minors, to enhance cybersecurity and privacy when using public Wi-Fi networks. Any EU-level restriction, ban or age limit on VPN services could therefore have significant implications for privacy, security and freedom of communication.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether any EU-wide ban, restriction, age limit or identification requirement for VPN services is currently being discussed, assessed or prepared?
2. If such measures are being considered, what is their legal basis?
3. What safeguards are proposed to protect freedom of communication?

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