

**Question for written answer E-002011/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Virginie Joron (PfE)

Subject: Weaponisation of animal cruelty on social network: the Commission stands idly by

Since early 2026, we have seen a surge in sophisticated scams on social media¹. Malicious individuals are circulating staged images of alleged animal cruelty to encourage donations to online fundraising campaigns. This content, which is often fabricated or manipulated, is used for the purposes of scams that have nothing whatsoever to do with animal welfare.

The Digital Services Act², in particular Articles 16, 28, 34, 66 and 67 thereof, lays down due diligence obligations for platforms regarding illegal content and entrusts the Commission with supervisory and sanctioning powers.

Given this urgent state of affairs, can the Commission say:

1. Whether it intends to open investigations or formal proceedings against platforms that fail to comply with their obligation to moderate and remove such manifestly illegal content?
2. Whether believes the proliferation of these organised scams to constitute a systemic risk within the meaning of Article 34, particularly in respect of to consumer protection and the dissemination of illegal content?
3. How it can justify prioritising sanctions against symbolic elements³ (such as ‘blue checkmarks’) over fighting criminal networks that are ripping off Europeans?

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¹ [https://www.30millionsdamis.fr/actualites/article/6315-arnaques-sur-internet-30-millions-damis-appelle-a-la-vigilance/?sword_list\[0\]=Adopter&sword_list\[1\]=un&sword_list\[2\]=chien&cHash=ea756fb4aad69d30ad77d6e298abaf02](https://www.30millionsdamis.fr/actualites/article/6315-arnaques-sur-internet-30-millions-damis-appelle-a-la-vigilance/?sword_list[0]=Adopter&sword_list[1]=un&sword_list[2]=chien&cHash=ea756fb4aad69d30ad77d6e298abaf02)

² Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act).

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2934