

**Question for written answer E-003454/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)

Subject: Better protection of minors online through the introduction of an EU-wide minimum access age for social media

Meta's recent settlement with 29 US states to resolve lawsuits regarding child safety on social media obliges the company to pay up to USD 16.68 billion and implement specific rules to deal with the impact on the mental health of children and young people.

The settlement came a few weeks after the Commission's preliminary finding that the addictive design of the company's services is a breach of the Digital Services Act.

In view also of the forthcoming 2026 State of the Union speech, can the Commission say:

1. Does it intend to present stricter measures to protect minors online, including the introduction of an EU-wide minimum access age for social media, as a follow-up to the European Parliament's report on the matter?
2. How will it ensure that the age of minors is reliably verified and how will it address social media functions that cause addiction among young people?
3. How will it oblige companies to comply with European legislation and take their responsibility seriously to ensure that their services are safe for children and young people, without placing a disproportionate burden on parents?

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