

Question for written answer E-003518/2026

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Bolstering Facebook and Instagram's child safeguards in the light of Meta's US settlement

Meta has agreed to a USD 16.7 billion settlement in a lawsuit brought against the company by a number of US states that had accused Facebook and Instagram of harming the well-being and mental health of underage users. This settlement has shed light on a situation of the utmost concern.

Meta employees and witnesses revealed during the proceedings that the company kept certain underused protective measures in place and elected not to implement more effective alternatives because it did not want teenage users to spend less time on its platforms. This evidence only strengthens concerns that Meta is putting profits ahead of child safety.

In the light of these developments and given that the Commission itself opened proceedings against Meta in May 2024 over child protection concerns, we ask the Commission:

1. Over two years since it launched this investigation, how far along are its enquiries, and what conclusions have they reached so far?
2. Does the Digital Services Act give the Commission the power to compel Meta to introduce measures similar to the ones it has pledged to enforce in the US (time limits, night-time blocks et al), or would new legislation be needed to achieve this?

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