

**Question for written answer E-003768/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Tiemo Wölken (S&D), Jens Geier (S&D), Per Clausen (The Left), Pernando Barrena Arza (The Left), Marta Temido (S&D), Birgit Sippel (S&D), Lena Schilling (Verts/ALE), Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE), Thomas Bajada (S&D), Chloé Ridel (S&D), Elisabeth Grossmann (S&D), René Repasi (S&D), Krzysztof Śmiszek (S&D), Tomislav Sokol (PPE), Pierre Jouvét (S&D), Alexandra Geese (Verts/ALE), Jean-Marc Germain (S&D), Thomas Pellerin-Carlin (S&D), Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus (S&D), Kristian Vigenin (S&D), Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE), Marc Angel (S&D), Veronika Cifrová Ostrihoňová (Renew), Maria Noichl (S&D), Matjaž Nemec (S&D), Robert Biedroń (S&D), Radan Kanev (PPE), Laurence Farreng (Renew), Vlad Vasile-Voiculescu (Renew), Matthias Ecke (S&D), Emma Rafowicz (S&D)

Subject: Systematic destruction of books by AI companies

Recent news reports suggest that major AI companies are buying, scanning and then destroying large quantities of antique and modern books to train their AI systems, thus destroying cultural heritage to train their AI models. An internal paper from Anthropic even explicitly states the objective of ‘destructively scanning all the books in the world’. The main purpose of this ‘destructive scanning’ of books appears to be to circumvent copyright issues, as it may be covered by the fair use provisions of US copyright law. However, there are also reports that EU booksellers have been approached to supply books for this purpose, with the books being shipped and destroyed overseas.

Can the Commission:

1. Outline which measures it is considering to prevent the potential circumvention of EU copyright law and the destruction of EU cultural heritage through the international shipping of books from the EU to non-EU countries for the purpose of ‘destructive scanning’?
2. Confirm whether it will address this issue in its forthcoming initiative on AI and copyright?

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