

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001646/25  
to the Commission**

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(24 April 2025)

*Subject:* Enforcement of the Digital Services Act (DSA)

The recent dissemination of a video depicting the rape of a minor by three young men in Portugal is very worrying. Similarly, photos of women taken from below in a university were shared on social media platforms this week.

These appalling acts not only violate fundamental rights but also raise serious questions about the enforcement of online safety and the protection of people, mostly women, in digital spaces.

In the light of these disturbing events, which, sadly, are just two of many, we would like to ask the following:

1. How is the Commission enforcing the DSA to ensure that social media platforms swiftly remove harmful content, such as the aforementioned video, namely via penalties, and how is the Commission taking measures to prevent re-uploads or further dissemination?
2. Is the Commission aware of whether the Portuguese authorities have demanded the removal of this content from social media platforms and whether they are taking any action to stop the distribution of this harmful content?

Submitted: 24.4.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission**

(22 July 2025)

The Commission strongly condemns the dissemination of illegal content, particularly if it violates fundamental rights and targets women.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) <sup>(1)</sup> imposes new obligations on providers of intermediary services to guarantee a safe online environment.

In practice providers of intermediary services need to put in place an easy-to-use reporting tool for illegal content on the platform, collaborate with competent authorities upon the receipt of orders to remove illegal content or provide information, on the basis of other applicable EU or national law.

In addition, the DSA lays down enhanced due diligence obligations on providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs).

These providers are required to assess and mitigate systemic risks stemming from their services and related systems, including the dissemination of illegal content risks for the exercise of fundamental rights, gender-based violence and person's physical and mental well-being. Mitigation measures may include the automated detection and removal of illegal content.

Due to suspicions of non-compliance with provisions related to illegal content and the protection of minors, the Commission is formally investigating X, <sup>(2)</sup> Facebook, Instagram <sup>(3)</sup>, four adult-content platforms <sup>(4)</sup> and TikTok. <sup>(5)</sup>

In each Member State, the Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs) <sup>(6)</sup> are responsible to enforce and supervise compliance with the DSA by providers of intermediary services whose main establishment is located in that Member State and are not designated VLOPs/VLOSEs.

In this instance, the designated DSC in Portugal, i.e. Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), may have additional information.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:4625430>.

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_6709](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6709).

<sup>(3)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_2373](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2373) [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_2664](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2664).

<sup>(4)</sup> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-opens-investigations-safeguard-minors-pornographic-content-under-digital-services-act>.

<sup>(5)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_926](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_926).

<sup>(6)</sup> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-dscs#1720699867912-1>.