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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.8.2025)

Article 1(1)(b) (aa) of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) provides a definition of ‘video-sharing platform services’¹. Additionally, the Commission issued guidelines accompanying this definition². It is the competence of national regulatory authorities to identify video-sharing platform services on this basis. In Ireland, the media regulator, Coimisiún na Meán, has identified YouTube, TikTok and Meta’s Facebook and Instagram as video-sharing platforms under Irish jurisdiction.

It is primarily the competence of national regulatory authorities to enforce the national rules transposing the AVMSD, including those focusing on the protection of minors. The Commission continues to closely monitor the implementation and enforcement of the AVMSD in the Member States, namely regarding the obligations of video-sharing platform providers related to the protection of minors.

Under the Digital Services Act (‘DSA’)³, very large online platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, Facebook and Instagram are obliged to assess and mitigate systemic risks, including the risks related to the design of online interfaces which exploit the weaknesses and inexperience of minors or which may cause addictive behaviour. The Commission has opened formal proceedings against TikTok and Meta over suspicion that such risks may not be adequately addressed⁴.

Under the DSA the Commission has published guidelines on the protection of minors that assist providers of online platforms in providing a high level of privacy, safety and security for minors⁵.

Lastly, the Commission is planning an EU-wide inquiry on the broader impacts of social media and excessive screen time on people, especially young people, and their wellbeing and mental health⁶.

¹ Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services in view of changing market realities.

² Guidelines on the practical application of the essential functionality criterion of the definition of a ‘video-sharing platform service’ under the Audiovisual Media Services Directive.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses>.

⁵ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-publishes-guidelines-protection-minors>.

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/b628b5a2-ac1e-4b9c-bbdd-35b82da0ac6b_en?filename=mission-letter-varhelyi.pdf.