

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002732/25
to the Commission
Kosma Złotowski (ECR)
(3 July 2025)**

Subject: Mandatory identity verification online and protection of users' privacy and personal data

Mandatory user identity and age verification online is a matter of legitimate public interest given how universally accessible the Internet is and the dangers that come with this widespread availability. Actions that the Commission is taking on this issue are being reported on in the media, especially in relation to the implementation of the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the use of the European Digital Identity Wallet for age and identity verification.

There is a growing need for effective yet sustainable solutions that align with the principles of proportionality and subsidiarity that would limit minors' access to adult-only material and content while also guaranteeing user privacy.

1. Going beyond declaratory assurances, what legal and technical mechanisms ensure that personal data obtained for the purposes of identity or age verification is processed for this purpose only and is then immediately deleted, with further tracking of a user's activity after verification being effectively impossible?
2. To what extent do the provisions of the DSA and the General Data Protection Regulation address current challenges related to protecting minors online and how would they potentially impact mandatory identity and age verification?

Submitted: 3.7.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(18 August 2025)**

The Digital Services Act ⁽¹⁾ (DSA) sets new rules to protect minors online. Article 35 of the DSA, applicable to very large online platforms and very large online search engines, enlists age verification as a reasonable, proportionate and effective measure to mitigate systemic risks related to children's rights.

The guidelines on protection of minors ⁽²⁾ under Article 28 indicate that providers of online platforms accessible to minors should adopt access restrictions supported by age verification in certain cases (e.g. access to pornographic content).

The guidelines clarify that age assurance should be privacy-preserving and respect data protection principles established under the General Data Protection Regulation. ⁽³⁾

On 11 February 2025, the European Data Protection Board adopted a statement on Age Assurance to ensure a consistent European approach to age assurance that complies with data protection principles.

On 14 July 2025, the Commission released 2025 a blueprint for a user-friendly and privacy-preserving age verification solution, building on state of the art privacy technology. ⁽⁴⁾

Based on the technical specifications of the EU Digital Identity Wallet, ⁽⁵⁾ which sets a global benchmark for privacy-preserving technology, this solution includes a template app allowing users to prove they are over 18 to access age-restricted services without sharing their exact age, identity or other personal information.

When the user presents the proof of age, its issuer, such as an app provider, is not notified in any way. It is not possible to track, see or reconstruct what content the user is consulting.

Proofs are issued in batches, and no proof of age is used more than once. Hence, it is also not possible to do any kind of cross-site tracking by online services.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-publishes-guidelines-protection-minors>.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-makes-available-age-verification-blueprint>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-building-blocks/sites/display/EUDIGITALIDENTITYWALLET/EU+Digital+Identity+Wallet+Home>.