

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003551/25
to the Commission**

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(15 September 2025)

Subject: Tackling digital violence: eID identification requirement for high-risk platforms

The recent scandal in Italy linked to the Phica.net website and Facebook group 'Mia moglie' ('My wife')⁽¹⁾, as well as journalistic investigations into incel communities, have shown how pornographic platforms and misogynistic forums can spread fabricated images and sexist content, inciting hatred against women and targeting ordinary victims and public figures.

Through the Radicalisation Awareness Network⁽²⁾, the Commission has already reported that online incel communities pose a risk to public health and safety, due to their glorification of violence and ability to attract vulnerable individuals. These are the kind of the systemic risks that need to be identified and mitigated under the Digital Services Act. However, the anonymity of users hinders the identification of those responsible, while operators monetise a model based on hate through advertising and subscriptions.

The new European Digital Identity Regulation offers a secure and interoperable tool that could be used as a mitigating measure: users would be able to create public pseudonyms with verified identities, which the competent authorities could access in case of abuse.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission consider introducing an eID requirement for users uploading content to high-risk social forums or networks and platforms involving economic transactions?
2. Does it see a need for further legislative measures to be proposed to ensure the security and protection of citizens, without compromising freedom of expression and privacy?

Submitted: 15.9.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(6 November 2025)

The Commission is committed to tackling gender-based violence in all its forms, reaffirmed by the EU's 2023 accession to the Istanbul Convention.

The Digital Services Act (DSA)⁽¹⁾ establishes that what is illegal offline is also illegal online. Article 16 DSA requires platforms to provide a notice-and-action mechanism for users to flag illegal content, including image-based sexual abuse (IBSA).

Providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs) must conduct annual risk assessments and adopt measures to mitigate systemic risks, including privacy breaches, IBSA and other forms of gender-based violence. Non-VLOP platforms such as Phica.net fall under the enforcement remit of the national Digital Services Coordinator (DSC) in the Member State of establishment.

The 2024 Directive on combating violence against women⁽²⁾ criminalises online offences, including IBSA, with transposition due by 2027. In parallel, EU and Member States are now allowed to sign the United Nation's convention against cybercrime, that will criminalize IBSA dissemination and strengthen cross-border investigations.

In accordance with the EU Digital Identity Regulation, the use of EU digital identity wallets is voluntary for the users. However, the regulation requires VLOP providers to accept and facilitate the use of the Wallets if they require user authentication for access to online services and users choose to authenticate themselves using the wallets.

¹ https://www.corriere.it/tecnologia/25_agosto_29/perche-il-caso-phica-eu-e-diverso-da-quello-del-gruppo-facebook-mia-moglie-45e928be-8ed4-4252-bcc2-851e5bbfbx1k.shtml.

² <https://www.corriere.it/dataroom-milena-gabanelli/siti-incel-italiani-sono-decline-chi-c-e-dietro-e-come-fanno-soldi-sull-odio-contro-le-donne/edb05f9b-b26b-4ce5-9017-9eb0dc66ax1k.shtml>.

⁽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⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>.

In addition, the Commission is establishing an expert panel on minors' protection and a forthcoming action plan against cyber-bullying targets preventive and remedial measures for platforms, schools and families.
