

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.12.2025)

The Commission is aware of recent news from Italy concerning images of women shared without consent on websites and platforms with accompanying sexist and violent comments.

The Commission is working to ensure that providers of online platforms comply with the Digital Services Act¹ (DSA), including the notice and action mechanism to report illegal content. Platforms made aware of illegal material must remove it promptly or risk liability.

Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs) and Search Engines (VLOSEs) face enhanced obligations, including risk assessments and measures to address systemic risks such as gender-based violence, breaches of dignity and privacy, and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images. The 2024 Directive on combating violence against women² criminalises cyber-violence offences, such as non-consensual sharing of intimate or manipulated images. Member States must transpose it by 2027, further strengthening DSA enforcement and ensuring platforms act against illegal content, particularly targeting women and girls.

The Council recently adopted a decision enabling the EU and Member States to sign the UN Convention against Cybercrime, which, once in force, can improve cross-border investigations of non-consensual sharing of intimate images, which the Convention criminalises through its Article 16.

The DSA does not empower the Commission to order the removal of content, but judicial or national authorities may order platforms to act against items considered illegal under national or EU law. Orders are shared with national Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs) according to DSA Article 9. Through the European Board for Digital Services, the Commission and DSCs regularly meet to coordinate enforcement.

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) (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, pp. 1–102.

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, OJ L, 2024/1385, 24.5.2024.