

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003837/25
to the Commission
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(1 October 2025)**

Subject: Developing artificial intelligence for the protection of minors, under parental control

To protect minors online, without interference from external authorities or organisations, whether private or public, artificial intelligence (AI) could offer parents invaluable technical assistance.

An AI model could be trained to make sure that while online, minors are not:

- contacted or solicited by unknown adults, often under false identities;
- exposed to programmes of a violent or sexual nature;
- exposed to addictive and targeted algorithms;
- misled by hidden business collaborations;
- deceived by people or computer programmes asking for confidential data, such as bank details, biometric data or information relating to their civil status.

In addition, an AI model such as this could also help parents monitor how much time their children spend online, and even direct them towards educational programmes of their choosing.

1. Would the Commission consider financing a programme aimed at developing an AI model specialising in the protection of minors, exclusively under parental control?
2. Could European agencies like Europol or Eurojust provide the necessary data to train such an AI model?

Submitted: 1.10.2025

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

Protection of children online is a priority. The EU has a strong framework to protect and empower children online with the Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ and its guidelines ⁽²⁾, the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) ⁽³⁾, the EU Strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse ⁽⁴⁾ and the Better Internet for Kids+ (BIK+) strategy ⁽⁵⁾.

The central BIK+ portal ⁽⁶⁾ and network of Safer Internet Centres ⁽⁷⁾ help minors, parents and educators to foster digital literacy and critical thinking skills and provide them with tools to navigate the online world more safely.

The Commission released a blueprint for an EU age verification solution to protect minors from harmful adult online content ⁽⁸⁾. The Commission President also announced a panel of experts to advise on possible avenues for potential social media age restrictions for children, to further increase their safety online. For early 2026, the Commission is preparing an action plan against cyberbullying ⁽⁹⁾.

The Commission currently does not consider financing the development of a parental control artificial intelligence (AI) model. However, the DSA guidelines encourage providers to explore the benefits of technical solutions such as AI classifiers for moderation purposes and outline specific requirements for parental controls, while setting out specific safeguards related to AI features integrated into online platforms.

Europol and Eurojust are bound by their mandates and EU data-protection rules, which strictly limit how operational data may be used and shared.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/digital-services-act_en.

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

⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/audiovisual-and-media-services>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52020DC0607>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://better-Internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en/news/new-better-Internet-kids-strategy-out-introducing-bik>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://better-Internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en>.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://better-Internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en/sic>.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-age-verification>.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/cyberbullying>.

Europol may transmit or transfer personal data to private parties only where strictly necessary to address online crisis situations, on a case-by-case basis and subject to the respect of specific safeguards.
