

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004038/25
to the Commission
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left), Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left)
(15 October 2025)**

Subject: Digital publishing piracy and protection of high-quality information in Europe

According to the Federazione Italiana Editori Giornali (FIEG) ⁽¹⁾, illegal distribution of newspapers and magazines via social media platforms and messaging apps may cause more than EUR 250 million per year in damage to the Italian publishing sector, undermining pluralism, employment and economic sustainability ⁽²⁾.

Although the AGCOM Regulation on online copyright has made it possible to remove tens of thousands of unlawfully disseminated publications, it has territorial and time limitations. Sites and pirate chats quickly rebuild and many servers are located abroad, where the Italian authorities cannot intervene.

The picture is similar in other countries: Spain has blocked 122 Telegram channels and groups where newspapers and magazines were being shared ⁽³⁾; in Portugal, a court ordered that a pirate site and hundreds of subdomains be blocked ⁽⁴⁾.

In the Netherlands, meanwhile, the BREIN association has been recognised as a trusted flagger under the DSA ⁽⁵⁾; and in France, ARCOM has stepped up its blocks and monitoring of the phenomenon ⁽⁶⁾.

We call on the Commission to answer the following questions:

1. What steps will it take to achieve swift and repeat removals on social media and messaging apps in Europe ⁽⁷⁾?
2. Will it step up cross-border cooperation between national authorities, Eurojust and Europol to make it easier to identify and prosecute operators located abroad?
3. Does it plan to collect and publish comparable data at EU level on publishing privacy?

Submitted: 15.10.2025

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

The Commission is firmly engaged in stepping up the fight against online piracy which continues being a major threat to European creative and media ecosystems. For instance, the Commission adopted in May 2023 the recommendation on combating online piracy of sport and other live events ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission will soon present its assessment of the effects of the recommendation. On that basis, the Commission will examine if additional measures are needed at EU level, including to address infringements of other type of copyright-protected content and to increase cross-border cooperation between national authorities.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽²⁾, which includes measures for combating illegal content online, further supports efforts to streamline removal processes and increase transparency and accountability of online platforms.

Moreover, the Commission is directly enforcing the DSA vis-à-vis the providers of designated very large online platforms (VLOPs) and, where necessary, takes steps to ensure that these providers comply with the regulation. The DSA does not set out what is considered illegal content.

In its fight against online piracy, the Commission is supported by the European Union Intellectual Property Office which regularly collects and publishes data related to infringements of intellectual property rights, covering, among others, publications ⁽³⁾.

¹ Italian Federation of Newspaper Publishers.

² FIEG — Report on digital editorial piracy in Italy (2023) <https://www.fieg.it>.

³ Red de Periodistas — CEDRO obtiene el bloqueo de 122 canales y grupos pirata en Telegram (2024) <https://www.reddedeperiodistas.com>.

⁴ The Portugal News — Google Portugal ordered to block pirate site (18 September 2024).

⁵ Stichting BREIN — BREIN obtains Trusted Flagger status under DSA (29.09.2025). <https://stichtingbrein.nl/brein-obtains-trusted-flagger-status/>.

⁶ ARCOM — Rapport annuel 2024 (Autorité de régulation de la communication audiovisuelle et numérique). <https://www.arcom.fr/se-documenter/etudes-et-donnees/etudes-bilans-et-rapports-de-larcom/rapport-annuel-2024-de-larcom>.

⁷ Digital Services Act — Regulation (EU) 2022/2065, Articles 16-22. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065>.

⁽¹⁾ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=PI_COM:C\(2023\)2853](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=PI_COM:C(2023)2853).

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:4625430>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.euipo.europa.eu/en/publications/online-copyright-infringement-in-the-european-union-films-music-publications-software-and-tv-2017-2023>.