(English version)

Question for written answer E-004488/25
to the Commission

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(12 November 2025)

Subject: Child-like sex dolls for sale: major e-commerce platforms failing to comply with EU law

Following an investigation by the French Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control, it was revealed that Shein offered for sale ‘child-like sex dolls’, products that are illegal and constitute child sexual abuse material. The Paris Prosecutor’s Office also confirmed that investigations had been opened against Shein, AliExpress, Temu and Wish.

Shein, AliExpress, and Temu have been designated as Very Large Online Platforms under the Digital Services Act (DSA), and are therefore subject to reinforced due diligence obligations, including the identification and mitigation of systemic risks related to the dissemination of illegal content and products.

Despite these obligations, such material has been made available to EU consumers.

1. Has the Commission launched, or does it intend to launch an investigation under the DSA following the sale of these ‘child-like sex dolls’ and the dissemination of illegal content by the platforms under investigation?

2. How will the Commission ensure that risk assessment and measures required under the DSA effectively prevent the listing or sale of illegal and pornographic material accessible to minors within the EU?

3. Under Article 51(3) of the DSA, the Commission has the power to restrict or suspend access to the EU market. Is the Commission prepared to make full use of this power to protect children and public health?

Submitted: 12.11.2025

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

(5 January 2026)

Regarding the sale of child-like sex dolls detected on platforms such as Shein, AliExpress, Temu, and Wish, the Commission welcomes the French authorities' actions and is in contact with them.

Criminal investigations are a national competence. The Digital Services Act ([1]) (DSA) obliges platforms to inform the authority issuing an order without delay of any effect given to the order.

The Commission has open proceedings against Temu and AliExpress under the DSA, which pre-date the recent detection of sex-related materials in France.

They are also significantly broader in scope. These proceedings are ongoing. On 26 November 2025, the Commission requested information on how Shein ensures that minors are not exposed to age-inappropriate content on its services as well as how it prevents the circulation of illegal products on its platform.

The Commission is actively monitoring all designated very large online marketplaces and in case of the suspicion of the existence of a systemic risk, the Commission can open a formal investigation.

The DSA obliges providers of very large online marketplaces to conduct risk assessment reports at least annually, and to mitigate identified risks, including the sale of illegal products.

If the marketplace fails to do so, the Commission can open formal proceedings. If a breach of the DSA is established, the marketplace could incur a fine of up to 6% of their global annual turnover.

([1]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32022R2065.

Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs) may, as a last resort and in relation to specific infringements of the DSA, ask a national court to temporarily restrict access to a platform.

The Commission is not empowered to block access to a platform itself, but also as a last resort can ask a DSC to request a national court to order a temporary suspension of a platform.