

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004537/25
to the Commission
Nikos Pappas (The Left)
(13 November 2025)**

Subject: Online gender-based violence and non-consensual dissemination of intimate material (revenge porn) — Need to strengthen victim protection in the European Union

Recurrent cybercrimes such as the non-consensual sharing of intimate or manipulated material in the European Union, including the use of artificial intelligence applications that ‘produce’ altered images (undressing apps), reveal serious gaps in the protection of privacy and human dignity, especially of women and young people. Many victims are unable to have the material removed or obtain legal and psychological support, as existing mechanisms are limited or fragmented.

Despite the institutional framework consisting of Directive (EU) 2024/1385 and Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 (Digital Services Act), implementation still varies between Member States and platforms still lack uniform action protocols.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it intend to strengthen coordination and exchange of best practices between Member States to ensure the immediate removal of non-consensual content and the protection of victims?
2. In the context of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 (Digital Services Act), will it issue guidance to online platforms for the adoption of common, binding response protocols?
3. Does it intend to promote the creation of a permanent European support mechanism for victims of online and gender-based violence, in the context of the priorities of the multiannual financial framework (MFF)?

Submitted: 13.11.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(20 January 2026)**

The directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence ⁽¹⁾ requires Member States to: (i) encourage self-regulatory cooperation between relevant intermediary service providers, raise awareness of measures that address online illegal content, improve employee training and assist victims ⁽²⁾; (ii) take actions to facilitate cooperation between service providers to improve the implementation of the directive ⁽³⁾, including to ensure removal of illegal content ⁽⁴⁾; (iii) provide specialist support for victims of cybercrimes ⁽⁵⁾ and adopt preventive measures ⁽⁶⁾.

The Roadmap for Women's Rights ⁽⁷⁾ aims at making the digital environment a safe place for women and girls, in all their diversity.

The Digital Services Act ⁽⁸⁾ requires providers of online platforms to put in place notice and action mechanisms to allow recipients of the service to report illegal content, including the non-consensual sharing of intimate or manipulated material.

Providers of intermediary services are not liable for the information stored at the request of recipients on their services on the condition that they do not have actual knowledge of the illegal content, but they are required to remove illegal content promptly upon obtaining such awareness or risk liability.

Providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs), including pornographic platforms, also face enhanced due diligence obligations, including identifying, assessing and analysing systemic risks stemming from their services and putting in place measures to mitigate the identified systemic risks.

The Democracy, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values’ (CERV+) strand of the Commission’s proposal for a new AgoraEU programme includes the objective of fighting against gender-based violence (including cyber violence).

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1385, OJ L, 2024/1385, 24.5.2024.

⁽²⁾ Articles 42.

⁽³⁾ Article 43.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 23.

⁽⁵⁾ Article 25.

⁽⁶⁾ Article 34(8).

⁽⁷⁾ A Roadmap for women’s rights https://commission.europa.eu/document/0c3fe55d-9e4f-4377-9d14-93d03398b434_en.

⁽⁸⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065, OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, Article 16.