

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004713/25
to the Commission
Veronika Cifrová Ostrihoňová (Renew)
(27 November 2025)**

Subject: Risks posed to minors by WhatsApp Channels and the platform's possible classification as a VLOP under the DSA

In February 2025, WhatsApp declared that it had reached 46.8 million monthly average users in the EU, which would mean that it would classify as a very large online platform (VLOP) under the Digital Services Act ⁽¹⁾ (DSA). After receiving the designation, the platform would have four months to comply with the DSA's requirements.

At the same time, several reports have recently raised concerns about the risks posed to children by the growing use of WhatsApp Channels. Many minors use WhatsApp primarily to stay in contact with parents and relatives, yet some also create channels where they share photos, videos and personal information. These channels can be followed by anyone, potentially exposing children to privacy risks, harassment or other forms of online harm.

1. Has WhatsApp been formally designated as a VLOP under the DSA, and does it now fall under the corresponding obligations?
2. Is the Commission examining the risks posed by WhatsApp Channels, particularly for minors?
3. Is the Commission planning to address this issue in the forthcoming Digital Fairness Act?

Submitted: 27.11.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(16 February 2026)**

On 26 January 2026, the Commission designated WhatsApp as a very large online platform (VLOP) pursuant to Article 33(4) Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾. Therefore, the provider of WhatsApp has now 4 months to comply with the additional obligations for VLOPs, including those related to risk assessment and mitigation, for its online platform features in the EU.

Even before its designation as a VLOP, the provider of WhatsApp had already to comply, for the features under the scope of the DSA, with the applicable rules to ensure a safe, predictable and trusted online environment. Given that the main establishment of that service in the EU is in Ireland, the competence to supervise WhatsApp and enforce the DSA in relation to that service is now shared between the Commission and the Irish Digital Services Coordinator, Coimisiún na Meán.

The Commission is currently working on a Digital Fairness Act (DFA) ⁽²⁾, which, as indicated in the 2030 Consumer Agenda, will be presented in the last quarter of 2026. The DFA will focus on topics such as dark patterns, addictive designs, influencer marketing, unfair personalised advertising or contractual problems online. The protection of minors as consumers online is a key priority of the DFA. The DFA will not tackle matters such as privacy risks or harassment.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services (OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/consultations/commission-launches-open-consultation-forthcoming-digital-fairness-act>.