

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000165/26
to the Commission**

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(15 January 2026)

Subject: Preventing the online sale of child sexual abuse dolls

After it had been found that online platforms such as Shein had been selling child sexual abuse dolls, the French authorities took them to court, reported the case to France's Audiovisual and Digital Communications Regulatory Authority and requested the temporary blocking of Shein, which was rejected by the Paris courts.

As a reminder, these are criminal offences under:

- Article 227-23 of the Penal Code, which provides for up to seven years' imprisonment and a fine of EUR 100 000 for the distribution, via an electronic communications network, of child sexual abuse material;
- Article 227-24 of the Penal Code, which provides for up to three years' imprisonment and a fine of EUR 75 000 for failure to implement filtering measures to protect children.

However, these potential penalties have failed to curtail this illegal trade, and the French authorities have once again taken legal action against a British website, Little Sex Dolls, on the same grounds.

1. Under the Digital Services Act, will the Commission impose a fine of up to 6% of global turnover on the suppliers of these dolls?
2. Will it fund artificial intelligence capable of detecting these illegal sales more effectively?
3. Does it consider online and border controls to be sufficient?

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(9 March 2026)

On 17 February 2026, the Commission opened a formal investigation into Shein under the Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ regarding the risk of illegal products, including content which could constitute child sexual abuse material, being disseminated on its platform, its addictive design and the transparency of its recommender system and is actively monitoring all other designated very large online marketplaces. If the Commission identifies a breach of the DSA, it could issue a fine of up to 6% of the provider's global turnover.

The Commission has proactively invested in artificial intelligence solutions to enhance the efficacy of product recalls with tools such as e-Surveillance ⁽²⁾ and Proactive Webcrawler ⁽³⁾ in order to detect unsafe or non-compliant products online.

As announced in the e-commerce Communication ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission organised a time limited Priority Control Area, coordinating customs and market surveillance authorities to concentrate controls on imports from major online platforms, gathering data for tools like the DSA, supporting the Market Surveillance Regulation (MSR) revision, and enhancing customs cooperation.

The Customs Reform, in final stage of negotiation, will structurally reinforce the capabilities of enforcement authorities to control the flow of goods at the EU-border, throughout the EU Customs Data Hub which will enhance exchange of data.

The MSR revision, part of the upcoming European Product Act, aims to close enforcement loopholes in EU product compliance, strengthening accountability for authorised representatives of foreign manufacturers, clarifying compliance requirements across the supply chain, and using tools like the Digital Product Passport to improve checks across Member States.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/digital-services-act.html>.

⁽²⁾ https://esurveillance.ec.europa.eu/product_safety/home.

⁽³⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/e-commerce-communication-comprehensive-eu-toolbox-safe-and-sustainable-e-commerce>.