

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000198/26  
to the Commission  
Elena Kountoura (The Left)  
(20 January 2026)**

**Subject:** The Commission must intervene to combat non-consensual production of sexual and deepfake AI content on social media

According to recent revelations <sup>(1)</sup>, the Grok AI system, used on the social networking platform X, has been producing non-consensual nude and sexualised content of women and minors, including deepfake images of real people.

These practices constitute a serious violation of fundamental rights, grossly violate human dignity and pose a risk to the security of citizens in digital environments, while being particularly harmful to victims. Therefore, they should not be technically feasible in the EU <sup>(2)</sup>.

Given the provisions of the European legislative framework, specifically:

- the Digital Services Act, which imposes the rapid removal of illegal content and the obligation to assess and mitigate systemic risks <sup>(3)</sup>,
- the Artificial Intelligence Act, which provides for transparency obligations and prohibits misleading practices <sup>(4)</sup>,
- the General Data Protection Regulation, in particular when personal data is used to create deepfake products,
- Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women <sup>(5)</sup>,

The Commission is asked:

1. Why has no formal investigation or sanction procedure been initiated so far, despite the severity and systemic nature of the violations?
2. Does the Commission intend to take measures to protect victims, in particular minors, to ensure the prompt removal of illegal material?
3. Does the Commission intend to propose the explicit classification of the non-consensual creation, manipulation or reproduction of intimate images by means of artificial intelligence systems as a prohibited practice under the Artificial Intelligence Act, in order to ensure legal clarity, enhance effective enforcement and prevent similar incidents?

Submitted: 20.1.2026

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

The Commission shares the Honourable Member's view that these are very serious issues that need to be addressed.

On 26 January 2026, the Commission launched new proceedings against the provider of X under the Digital Services Act (DSA) <sup>(1)</sup>, which will determine if the provider properly assessed and mitigated systemic risks associated with the deployment in the EU of Grok's functionalities on X, including risks related to the dissemination of illegal content, such as manipulated sexually explicit images and content that may amount to child sexual abuse material.

Under the DSA, online platforms must have mechanisms and procedures in place for reporting and expediently removing illegal content they have become aware of, including non-consensual intimate images.

The DSA does not empower the Commission itself to order the removal of content, but national judicial or administrative authorities may order platforms to act against items considered illegal under national or EU law.

<sup>1</sup> <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/media/video/I-282956>

<sup>2</sup> However, on 8 January the Commission limited itself to issuing a document preservation order to the X platform, without opening a formal investigation procedure, while Member States and non-EU countries have already launched investigations.

<sup>3</sup> Regulation 2022/2065 (Digital Services Act) lays down the responsibilities of online platforms, obliging them to have effective reporting mechanisms and to take prompt action to remove content deemed illegal (Articles 16-17).

<sup>4</sup> Regulation 2024/1689 establishes harmonised rules on artificial intelligence, providing for the mandatory labelling of content generated by artificial intelligence (deepfake products) and the assessment of systemic risks to prevent the production of harmful material. It also stipulates that in the event of a serious incident, the provider must document, report and present possible remedial solutions to the competent authorities (Article 73).

<sup>5</sup> See Recital 19, Article 5 and Article 9(2) of Directive (EU) 2024/1385.

<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, pp. 1-102.

The 2024 Directive on combating violence against women <sup>(2)</sup> criminalises different forms of cyber-violence offences, such as non-consensual sharing of intimate images, and of material created or altered to falsely portray someone engaging in sexually explicit activities where such conduct is likely to cause serious harm to that person.

Member States must transpose it by 14 June 2027, thus establishing the illegality of such content under national law which further complements DSA enforcement and ensures that online platforms act against it.

As for the AI Act <sup>(3)</sup>, the Commission is aware that Member States and Members of the European Parliament are proposing to strengthen the current protections and include explicit prohibitions of AI systems producing child sexual abuse material and non-consensual sexually explicit images in the context of the AI Omnibus negotiations.

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<sup>(2)</sup> Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence, OJ L, 2024/1385, 24.5.2024.

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act), OJ L, 2024/1689, 12.7.2024.