

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000357/26
to the Commission
Eleonora Meletti (PPE)
(28 January 2026)**

Subject: Replay of shocking images by audiovisual media

Recently, a serious road accident in Romania with seven deaths was extensively covered by television media with continuous playback of videos from the scene of the tragedy, including images that violate human dignity and may cause secondary victimisation of the victims' families.

The same content has also been widely reproduced on online platforms, raising serious questions about respect for human dignity and the protection of relatives. The combined dissemination by television media and online platforms may enhance the systematic risk of disseminating shocking content to a wide audience and may harm the intellectual and moral development of minors.

In view of the above, the Commission is asked:

1. What measures does the current European framework provide for to limit the reproduction of unedited audiovisual material from scenes of tragedies, in particular when it is repeatedly broadcast by television media?
2. In cases where the same content is widely reproduced by very large online platforms, how does the Commission assess the role and obligations of platforms under the Digital Services Act in order to ensure the protection of human dignity in practice?
3. Will the Commission consider issuing guidelines to Member States and media providers to prevent the uncritical display of images of tragedy in the name of information?

Submitted: 28.1.2026

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

Beyond the obligation for Member States to ensure that audiovisual media services provided under their jurisdiction respect and protect human dignity pursuant to Article 6 of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) ⁽¹⁾, Article 6a(1) of that directive requires Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that audiovisual media services which may impair the physical, mental or moral development of minors are only made available in such a way as to ensure that minors will not normally hear or see them, including selecting the time of the broadcast, age verification tools or other technical measures.

Similarly, pursuant to Article 28b of the AVMSD, Member States also need to ensure that video-sharing platform providers adopt measures to protect minors against harmful content.

Under the Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽²⁾, providers of designated very large online platforms must, at least annually, conduct risk assessment to effectively identify, assess and mitigate systemic risks stemming from their services.

This can include the risk of the dissemination of illegal content and risks to the mental health and wellbeing of their users as well as their human dignity. Moreover, the DSA makes it easier for users to report illegal content.

In order to ensure that minors do not have access to harmful content, the Commission is carefully assessing whether more needs to be done in the area of protection of minors in the context of the ongoing evaluation and review of the AVMSD ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services in view of changing market realities.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15752-Audiovisual-media-services-evaluation-and-update-of-EU-rules/public-consultation_en.