

EN

E-001477/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.6.2026)

The Commission is aware of the growing phenomenon of fraud perpetrated via electronic communications services. Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards are the enablers of these services and Member States have the discretion to impose SIM registration requirements, in particular, for pre-paid SIM cards, to counter crimes or any fraudulent activities. These requirements have to comply with EU data protection rules. Obligations on electronic communications service providers to retain subscriber information and other non-content data are currently regulated by national laws. The Commission is currently conducting an impact assessment to evaluate the need for a possible harmonised EU framework on the retention of non-content data for criminal justice purposes.

In addition, the proposal for a Digital Networks Act¹ requires the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications to issue guidelines on measures that could effectively protect end-users against fraudulent activities through interpersonal communications in the EU. National competent authorities will be required to adopt the necessary measures taking the guidelines into utmost account. The Commission will be empowered to adopt delegated acts to supplement the Digital Networks Act with provisions enhancing the effectiveness thereof.

Further to the priorities outlined in the ProtectEU Internal Security Strategy² of April 2025, the Commission intends to publish an Action Plan to counter digital fraud before the end of 2026. As currently envisaged, the Action Plan will aim to address the multifaceted nature of digital fraud through a comprehensive, cross-sectoral approach and specific actions.

¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/proposal-regulation-digital-networks-act-dna>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0148>.