

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001498/26
to the Commission
Dan-Ştefan Motreanu (PPE)
(13 April 2026)**

Subject: The impact of cyberbullying and online abuse

Concerns continue to be raised about the growing impact of cyberbullying and online abuse across the EU, including cases involving the non-consensual sharing of intimate images and persistent harassment on digital platforms. While some Member States have introduced specific legislation to address such behaviour, legal approaches remain fragmented at EU level.

In Ireland, the adoption of legislation commonly known as ‘Coco’s Law’ has created criminal offences for the non-consensual distribution of intimate images and certain forms of online harassment. Supporters of this approach have called for the EU to consider similar measures in order to strengthen the protection of victims of cyberbullying across the Member States.

Thus, what steps could be taken at EU level to reinforce the response to cyberbullying and the non-consensual sharing of intimate content, while ensuring consistent and effective protection for victims across the Member States?

Submitted: 13.4.2026

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

The EU has already a comprehensive framework to protect and empower minors online. The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾ requires providers of online platforms to provide user friendly notice and action mechanisms to report the presence of specific illegal content. Providers made aware of such items of illegal content must remove them promptly or risk losing their liability exemption.

Under the DSA very large online platforms and search engines must assess and mitigate risks to minors. Providers of online platforms accessible to minors shall implement appropriate and proportionate measures to ensure high level of privacy, safety and security of minors.

The Guidelines on the protection of minors ⁽²⁾ provide practical guidance for providers, including recommendations to protect young users from cyberbullying, such as default settings preventing children from being contacted by strangers.

The upcoming revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive ⁽³⁾ will strengthen protections for younger viewers when accessing audiovisual content online.

Complementary initiatives, such as the action plan against cyberbullying ⁽⁴⁾ under the Better Internet for Kids Strategy ⁽⁵⁾, focus on prevention, education and victim support.

Moreover, under the competences given by the Treaties, the EU has established rules requiring Member States to ensure certain behaviours are punishable as criminal offence, including cyberstalking, cyber harassment, the non-consensual sharing of intimate images, cyber incitement to violence and hatred based on gender under the Violence against Women Directive ⁽⁶⁾, as well as the public incitement to violence or hatred under the framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia ⁽⁷⁾ which applies to online behaviours.

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

⁽²⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C_202505519.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2010/13/2018-12-18/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0071>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2022:212:FIN>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>.

⁽⁷⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2008/913/oj/eng.