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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.6.2026)

The Commission is strengthening interdisciplinary evidence gathering. A Special Panel was established with a mandate to draw up recommendations to the President of the Commission on child safety online and potential age restrictions¹. It brings together youth representatives and experts from health, neuroscience, technology and the child rights field. The panel has held two meetings thus far, assessing the evidence of risks and opportunities for minors in digital environments and how to strengthen existing rules. Building upon the EU's toolbox for protecting minors online, and based on the independent, evidence-based input from experts, the co-chairs of the panel will submit their recommendations by July 2026.

Moreover, the EU has already in place comprehensive framework for protecting, and empowering minors online. In particular, the Digital Services Act (DSA)² requires the providers of all platforms accessible to minors to ensure a high level of privacy, safety, and security. The guidelines on the protection of minors³ under the DSA are based on the principle of respecting children's rights, privacy, safety, and security by design. Complementing these efforts, the Better Internet for Kids strategy supports safer and more age-appropriate digital environments with the involvement of children in policymaking as one of its core pillars, including through initiatives such as the Youth Ambassadors programme.

The upcoming Digital Fairness Act⁴ aims to strengthen consumer protection online with a particular focus on minors.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/digital-economy-and-society/protect-our-children-also-online_en.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

³ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-publishes-guidelines-protection-minors>.

⁴ For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14622-Digital-Fairness-Act_en.