

EN

E-001614/2026

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

The application presented on 15 April 2026 is an early reference implementation of the European age verification solution, released openly for scrutiny prior to public deployment. Some of the issues raised by independent experts were well founded and have been corrected by the development consortium, with an updated version made available shortly thereafter and further improvements to follow.

The application is in its piloting phase. Member States are responsible for adapting the implementation to national circumstances and for ensuring that all applicable cybersecurity and data protection standards are met before the application is made available to citizens, in line with the Commission Recommendation of 29 April 2026¹ calling for independent third-party scrutiny prior to deployment. No postponement of the timetable is therefore required, since deployment in each Member State remains conditional on the successful completion of these checks.

The privacy-preserving approach referred to by the Honourable Member is already a constitutive element of the solution's design. The architecture relies on cryptographic techniques that allow a user to demonstrate that the relevant age threshold is met without disclosing identifying information to the online service, in line with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and the European Data Protection Board Statement 1/2025 on Age Assurance². The Commission remains committed to strengthening these properties further as the solution matures.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2026/1035/oj>.

² https://www.edpb.europa.eu/our-work-tools/our-documents/statements/statement-12025-age-assurance_en.