

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001619/26
to the Commission
Elena Kountoura (The Left)
(21 April 2026)**

Subject: Need for technical assurance of security, reliability and protection of personal data in the new European Commission age verification app

The Commission recently announced that the new age verification app to protect minors online is technically ready. ⁽¹⁾ The provision of this app aims to create a standardised way of verifying the age of users for major technology platforms across the Union. ⁽²⁾

However, experts who have examined the open source code of the app have identified significant weaknesses, such as insufficient protection of stored sensitive personal data and the possibility of bypassing authentication mechanisms. ⁽³⁾

The fact that the app was presented as technically ready, while at the same time acknowledged to be a 'demo version' under continuous development, raises issues of personal data protection and institutional credibility.

Taking into account recent FRA data, according to which the vast majority of European citizens support the imposition of age limits on the use of social media, citing risks such as exploitation, exposure to harmful content and addiction ⁽⁴⁾, and that the introduction of minimum age limits for access to social networks should meet strict conditions for secure age verification that protect personal data, such as encrypted zero-knowledge proof of age, without storing identity ⁽⁵⁾:

1. How does the Commission assess the technical weaknesses identified and what specific corrective measures have already been taken to make the app fully secure?
2. Does the Commission intend to reassess the implementation schedule of the app until full compliance with European security, reliability and data protection standards is ensured?

Submitted: 21.4.2026

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

The Commission attaches the highest importance to ensuring that measures to protect minors fully respect the EU's standards on security, privacy, and fundamental rights.

The findings concerned an early version of the European Age Verification solution, released prior to public deployment. The issues raised by experts have been addressed by the consortium, with an updated version already available with further improvements to follow.

The solution is privacy-preserving and allows a user to demonstrate that an age threshold is met without disclosing identifying information. It follows the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ⁽¹⁾ and the European Data Protection Board Statement on Age Assurance ⁽²⁾.

The schedule foresaw a phased pilot, during which providers and issuers are responsible for adapting the implementation to national circumstances.

Third-party scrutiny, as called for by the Commission Recommendation ⁽³⁾, is ensured through the European Age Verification Scheme and existing supervisory bodies.

The scheme will define the criteria applicable to issuers and solution providers, and those entities will be assessed against the security and data protection related requirements.

This provides a pathway for online platforms to demonstrate compliance with the obligation to ensure a high level of privacy, safety, and security of minors.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/da/statement_26_817. The system is based on the 'zero-knowledge proof' method, which means that social media users will be able to verify their age without sharing personal data with the platforms.

² Under the EU Digital Services Act, platforms that will be required to restrict access to minors are not obliged to use the Union app. However, they will have to demonstrate that the tools they will use are equally effective, safe, reliable and protect personal data.

³ <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-brussels-launched-age-checking-app-hackers-say-took-them-2-minutes-break-it/>.

⁴ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2026/europeans-deeply-concerned-about-childrens-use-social-media>.

⁵ See European Parliament resolution of 26 November 2025 on the protection of minors online.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>.

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

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2026/1035/oj>.

No adjustment of the timetable is therefore required, since deployment in each Member State is conditional on the completion of these checks.
