

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001667/26
to the Commission
Jeroen Lenaers (PPE)
(22 April 2026)**

Subject: Revelations about a global network of men drugging and abusing women

A recent shocking investigation by CNN ⁽¹⁾ has uncovered a global network of men who use messaging apps and porn sites to support and encourage one another to drug and abuse their female partners. For example, the porn website Motherless features more than 20 000 videos of women who have been drugged or who are unconscious. Telegram group chats are also being used to share tips on how to drug women, sell sleeping pills and share live streams of the abuse.

1. Is the Commission aware of the recent CNN investigation, and does it share the view that — given the cross-border nature of platforms such as Telegram and Motherless — this issue needs to be addressed at EU level?
2. What obligations does existing EU legislation impose on online platforms, Member States and the Commission, and how does the Commission ensure compliance with these obligations?
3. Given the seriousness of this issue, is the Commission prepared to take additional measures to combat this form of sexual abuse and, if so, what specific steps is it considering?

Submitted: 22.4.2026

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

The Commission is aware of the CNN investigation in relation to ‘Motherless.com’ and the use of Telegram for sharing information on how to drug and abuse women. These practices are unacceptable.

Under the Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾, providers of hosting services are obliged to put in place mechanisms for users to notify suspected illegal content.

If found to be illegal, the platform must act expeditiously to remove or to disable access to that content. Providers are also required to notify suspected criminal offences involving a threat to the life or safety to competent authorities.

Very large online platforms and search engines must, at least annually, assess systemic risks on their service and put in place effective mitigation measures.

This can include risks relating to gender-based violence, including non-consensual sharing of intimate images, and threats to fundamental rights.

The Commission is continuously monitoring these platforms’ compliance with the DSA. For example, in January 2026 the Commission opened formal proceedings against X due to, *inter alia*, Grok’s dissemination of sexualised deepfakes.

Furthermore, Directive (EU) 2024/1385 criminalises the most serious forms of cyberviolence, including the non-consensual sharing of intimate material, and requires rapid removal of illegal content. The Commission is committed to supporting Member States in transposing the directive.

Telegram is not designated as a very large online platform and has appointed its legal representative in Belgium; the Digital Services Coordinator is the Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications.

The Commission is aware that the Dutch authorities opened an investigation on ‘Motherless.com’, whose servers are located in the Netherlands.

¹ <https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2026/03/world/expose-rape-assault-online-vis-intl/index.html>.

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