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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.7.2026)

In recognition of their extensive reach and influence, the Digital Services Act (DSA)¹ places additional obligations on designated very large online platforms like Google Play and Apple App Store. Their provider must at least annually diligently identify, assess and mitigate systemic risks on their services, including negative impacts on the wellbeing of minors.

The DSA guidelines on the protection of minors² contain measures to shield minors from certain commercial practices on online platforms that could negatively impact their privacy, safety and security. For example, minors should not be exposed to methods that make financial transactions untransparent or potentially misleading like virtual currencies.

The Commission is diligently enforcing the DSA. In September 2025, the Commission asked the Apple App Store and Google Play to provide detailed information on how they assess the presence of fraudulent content and the measures they take to reduce the risks of financial scams, including fraudulent applications imitating legitimate banking, investment or trading apps. In October 2025, the Commission requested information from the Apple App Store and Google Play regarding their measures to ensure that minors are not exposed to harmful apps, like gambling apps, and the effectiveness of their age rating systems. At the national level, for example, the German Bundesnetzagentur is investigating the gaming platform Steam due to possible breaches of the DSA in connection with the Plantation Simulator video game.

The ongoing impact assessment for the Digital Fairness Act³ examines if further action is needed to address specific practices like gambling-simulating features (loot boxes) or pay-to-win and pay-to-progress features that are widely used in video games.

The revision of the Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation⁴ will aim to ensure stronger, faster and more deterrent enforcement of EU consumer law, thus also contributing to an enhanced protection of young consumers, including in the digital world.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/digital-services-act.html>.

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

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14622-Digital-Fairness-Act_en.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02017R2394-20250912>.