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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.9.2026)

While the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)¹ does not apply to online videogames as such, the Digital Services Act (DSA)² applies to videogames that qualify as intermediary services. Under the DSA, providers of online platforms are required to ensure a high level of privacy, safety, and security for minors, in line with the protection of minors' online guidelines³.

Moreover, the protection of minors in videogames is currently carried out on the basis of self-regulatory mechanisms such as the Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) age and content rating system. This system aims to empower parents by providing relevant information allowing them to make informed choices. It has been recently updated to reflect emerging risks related to online games such as loot boxes or in-game communications⁴.

While the Commission acknowledges the contribution of the PEGI system and the overall efforts by the industry to provide a safer online gaming environment for consumers, notably for vulnerable groups such as minors, it will continue to assess whether further measures may be appropriate in this area, in particular in the light of the recommendations of the Special Panel on child safety online⁵.

The Commission is fully committed to upholding children's rights online as off-line, ensuring their protection, safety and well-being.

¹ Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services in view of changing market realities.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/digital-services-act.html>.

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C_202505519.

⁴ <https://pegi.info/news/pegi-expands-age-rating-criteria-interactive-risk-categories>.

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/d833504d-5ec3-4fac-945f-38e7d0bd5326_en?filename=Special-panel-report.pdf.