

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002680/26
to the Commission**

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(29 June 2026)

Subject: Protecting minors online from manipulation, bullying and grooming

The resolution adopted by Parliament on the need for targeted criminal law provisions and enhanced platform responsibility to address online bullying and harassment highlights the growing risks faced by minors in digital environments.

Parliament calls for cyberbullying to be classified as a particularly serious crime with a cross-border dimension and stresses the need to effectively enforce platforms' obligations under the Digital Services Act (DSA), in particular Article 28 thereof, including those relating to in-game chat and voice communication tools where minors may be exposed to manipulation, exploitation, bullying and grooming.

Stakeholders and watchdog organisations warn about the links between online platforms and such risks. The regulatory gap resulting from the pending negotiations on the Child Sexual Abuse Regulation (CSAR) continues to limit detection and prevention mechanisms.

1. Does the Commission intend to build on Parliament's resolution and, if so, what additional measures does it envisage to strengthen the safety and protection of minors online?
2. Does the Commission consider the existing obligations under the DSA sufficient to address the systemic risks faced by minors online, particularly in relation to manipulation, bullying and grooming?
3. Is the Commission considering additional targeted legislative or enforcement measures aimed at protecting minors online from such risks?

Submitted: 29.6.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(11 September 2026)

The Commission takes good note of the resolution.

The protection of minors online is addressed under the existing legal and policy framework. Under the Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽¹⁾, providers of online platforms accessible to minors are required to ensure a high level of privacy, safety and security of minors.

The Commission also adopted the Guidelines on the protection of minors ⁽²⁾, which set out a non-exhaustive list of measures that the Commission considers that providers of online platforms may implement to comply with these obligations.

In addition, very large online platforms must also assess and mitigate systemic risks on their services, including those affecting minors. The Commission is enforcing these rules. In March 2026, for example, the Commission opened formal proceedings against Snapchat.

Beyond the DSA, the Commission has adopted the action plan against Cyberbullying ⁽³⁾, focused on protection, awareness-raising, reporting and support.

Concerning the classification of cyberbullying as a serious crime, the EU *acquis* already provides important safeguards and criminal law measures against cyberviolence ⁽⁴⁾, while additional measures are considered against online public incitement to violence or hatred ⁽⁵⁾.

As regards further action, the Commission will assess the recommendations of the final report ⁽⁶⁾ presented on 13 July 2026 by the co-chairs of the Special Panel on Child Safety Online, with a view to further strengthening children's safety and participation online.

⁽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://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0071>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>.

⁽⁵⁾ Communication on Enhancing the strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities up to 2030, COM(2026) 541 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0541&qid=1786002718113>; LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026-2030, COM(2025) 725 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0725&qid=1786003074063>.

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/digital-economy-and-society/protecting-children-online/special-panel_en.

In addition, the proposed Regulation on preventing and combatting child sexual abuse ⁽⁷⁾ aims at requiring providers of online platforms to prevent and, where necessary, to detect, report, remove and block child sexual abuse material and grooming on their services.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2022%3A209%3AFIN>.