

EN

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

The AI Act¹ protects children by introducing safeguards for the development and use of AI systems.

It prohibits AI systems that manipulate, deceive or exploit children's vulnerabilities with the objective or the effect of materially distorting children's behaviour in a manner likely to lead to significant harm². AI systems used in education are high-risk and must comply with requirements on, among others, risk management, transparency and human oversight.

The AI Omnibus does not undermine the high level of protection that the AI Act provides. It strengthens children's protection by prohibiting AI systems that generate child sexual abuse material and non-consensual intimate content³.

The Digital Services Act (DSA)⁴ sets harmonised rules for a safe, predictable and trusted online environment, including for children, and is unaffected by the AI Omnibus. Article 28 DSA requires providers of online platforms accessible to minors to put in place appropriate and proportionate measures to ensure a high level of privacy, safety and security of minors, on their service. The Commission Guidelines on the protection of minors⁵ set out measures that, in the Commission's view, providers should implement to comply with that obligation.

The AI Act and DSA are complementary and together ensure a high level of child protection in the EU⁶.

The Commission also fosters media literacy and digital learning through the European strategy for a Better Internet for Kids⁷ (BIK+), the Safer Internet Centres and the BIK platform⁸. These support children and young people in, among others, building critical digital skills and using social media and AI responsibly. They also equip parents, caregivers, teachers and educators with the knowledge and tools to support children online.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>.

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-publishes-guidelines-prohibited-artificial-intelligence-ai-practices-defined-ai-act>. This prohibition is applicable since 2 February 2025.

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202601744. This prohibition will be applicable as of 2 December 2026.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁵ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-publishes-guidelines-protection-minors>.

⁶ In due compliance with children's rights as enshrined in the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union.

⁷ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/strategy-better-internet-kids>.

⁸ <https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en>.