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

The Commission does not comment on agreements concluded between digital services providers and third-country governments.

EU citizens are protected online by a robust legal framework. In particular, the General Data Protection Regulation¹ sets strict requirements for the processing and international transfer of personal data, including transfers to third countries such as China. In addition, the Digital Services Act (DSA)² establishes unprecedented obligations for online platforms operating in the EU in terms of transparency and accountability.

The Commission is enforcing its laws firmly and fairly throughout the EU. In this respect, TikTok is designated as a very large online platform under the DSA and is therefore obliged to diligently assess and mitigate systemic risks stemming from its service. This includes risks related to the dissemination of illegal content, the protection of fundamental rights, civic discourse, and electoral processes.

When platform providers fail to meet their obligations, the Commission acts. The Commission opened several investigations into TikTok and preliminarily found breaches of the DSA for its failure to publish an advertisement repository³, its addictive design⁴ and its failure to ensure safe accounts for minors⁵. Following extensive engagement with the Commission, TikTok submitted binding commitments to withdraw the rewards programme⁶, which could have stimulated addiction-like behaviour, and to address the Commission's concerns about TikTok's ad repository, measures which are already having a positive impact for users in the EU.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

² Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 on a Single market for digital services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

³ Commission preliminarily finds TikTok's ad repository in breach of the DSA, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-preliminarily-finds-tiktoks-ad-repository-breach-digital-services-act>.

⁴ Commission preliminarily finds TikTok's addictive design in breach of the DSA, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-preliminarily-finds-tiktoks-addictive-design-breach-digital-services-act>.

⁵ Commission preliminary finds TikTok in breach of the DSA for failing to ensure safe accounts for minors, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-preliminary-finds-tiktok-breach-digital-services-act-failing-ensure-safe-accounts-minors>.

⁶ TikTok commits to permanently withdraw TikTok Lite Rewards programme from the EU to comply with the DSA, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/tiktok-commits-permanently-withdraw-tiktok-lite-rewards-programme-eu-comply-digital-services-act>.