

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.9.2026)

On 13 July 2026, the President of the Commission received the final report of the Co-Chairs of the Special Panel on Child Safety Online¹. The report highlights the critical challenges faced by children online and sets out recommendations for better protecting and empowering them, as well as for an age-appropriate use of social media and other digital services.

The report confirms that the EU has already established an ambitious and comprehensive framework for the protection of minors online, notably through the Digital Services Act² and its Guidelines on the Protection of Minors Online³, the AI Act⁴, the General Data Protection Regulation⁵, the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive⁶, and the Better Internet for Kids strategy⁷. Complementing this framework, the Commission continues to support the co-legislators in the ongoing negotiations on the proposed Regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse⁸.

The report of the Co-Chairs of the Special Panel advocates for a robust safety-by-design framework, as well as making sure that minors have access to age-appropriate digital spaces. The report also reflects a broad debate in Europe on issues such as age assurance, minimum age approaches for digital services, and the possibility of phased, age-appropriate access to specific functionalities.

The Commission is now carefully assessing the report and its recommendations and will come forward with a proposal after the summer. In parallel, the Commission is preparing an action plan on the protection of children from crime, which will also follow up on relevant recommendations from the report.

¹ Report from the Special panel on child safety online, https://commission.europa.eu/topics/digital-economy-and-society/special-panel_en.

² Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 on a Single Market For Digital Services, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

³ Guidelines on measures to ensure a high level of privacy, safety and security for minors online, pursuant to Article 28(4) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C_202505519.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.

⁶ Directive 2005/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2005 concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market.

⁷ The new European strategy for a better internet for kids, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2022:212:FIN>.

⁸ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse, COM(2022) 209 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0209>.