

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Vestager
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.11.2024)

The Commission takes the impact that social media can have on young people's well-being and mental health very seriously. It has already taken action by opening formal proceedings under the Digital Services Act (DSA)¹ against TikTok², Facebook and Instagram³, based on suspicions that algorithms may stimulate behavioural addictions in young people and create so called 'rabbit-hole effects'. The Commission also continuously monitors compliance of all very large online platforms and search engines⁴ (VLOPSEs) with the DSA and may initiate new proceedings if necessary.

Under Article 28 DSA, all online platforms in the EU must ensure a high level of privacy, safety and security on their services for minors. Under Article 34 DSA, the VLOPSEs must also regularly assess systemic risks, including negative effects to users' mental and physical well-being, and take effective mitigation measures in respect of any such risks.

To assist online platforms in ensuring a high level of privacy, safety, and security of minors on their service, and thus support minors' mental and physical wellbeing, the Commission is currently developing guidelines scheduled for adoption in 2025.

Protection must go hand-in-hand with empowerment: under the Better Internet for Kids (BIK+) strategy⁵ the Commission offers a wealth of content and services to children and young people, and those that care for them, through the EU co-funded network of Safer Internet Centres and the BIK platform⁶.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R2065>

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses#ecl-inpage-tiktok>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2664

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses>

⁵ COM/2022/212 final.

⁶ <https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en>