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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is driving a comprehensive approach to child protection mechanisms. Alongside its Better Internet for Kids strategy¹, priorities include developing a digital identity framework, age verification and an enquiry into the impact of social media on mental health.

The proposal for a Regulation to combat child sexual abuse² would create obligations for companies to systematically assess and mitigate online child sexual abuse and, if required, detect, report, remove or – in the rare cases where removal is not possible – block it. Directive 2011/93/EU on combating child sexual abuse³ and its proposed recast⁴ strengthen protections for children online by addressing digital threats, law enforcement cooperation and victims' rights. It includes the criminalisation of inciting or aiding and abetting to commit child sexual abuse and exploitation offences. As outlined in ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy⁵, the Commission will continue to support the co-legislators in finalising these proposals.

Moreover, the Digital Services Act (DSA)⁶ requires providers of very large online platforms and search engines, including X, to identify, analyse and assess systemic risks stemming from the design, functioning and use of their service (Article 34) and put in place reasonable, proportionate and effective mitigation measures (Article 35). The risk assessment shall include the dissemination of illegal content. The DSA also harmonises the conditions under which competent authorities are to order the removal of illegal content (Articles 9 and 10). The Commission has opened formal investigations into X, notably on the dissemination of illegal content⁷.

The Commission has also published guidelines for the protection of minors in the framework of Article 28 of the DSA⁸.

¹ European strategy for a Better Internet for Kids (BIK+),
<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/strategy-better-internet-kids>.

² 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.

³ Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA, OJ L 335, 17.12.2011, p. 1–14.

⁴ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse material and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA (recast), COM(2024) 60 final.

⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy, COM(2025) 148 final.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1–102.

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6709.

⁸ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-publishes-guidelines-protection-minors>.