

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.1.2026)

The Commission is aware of the court filings which accuse the providers of Snapchat, Meta, TikTok and YouTube of knowingly designing their platforms to cause harm and make users addicted. The court filings may contain relevant evidence for the ongoing investigations, to the extent the evidence in question is relevant to systemic risks that materialise in the EU.

According to the Digital Services Act¹(DSA), providers of very large online platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat and TikTok must assess and mitigate systemic risks, for example related to the negative effects on persons' physical and mental wellbeing stemming from the design and functioning of the service. Public versions of these risk assessment reports can be found online and may provide further information on how systemic risks are assessed within the EU.

The Commission has opened investigations into the protection of minors and person's physical and mental well-being, including on addictive features and so-called 'rabbit holes' of harmful content against the providers of Facebook, Instagram² and TikTok³. If the investigations confirm these concerns, the Commission can take further enforcement steps, such as interim measures and non-compliance decisions, and ultimately impose fines or accept binding commitments. In addition, in August 2024, the Commission accepted the provider of TikTok's commitments to permanently withdraw its TikTok Lite Rewards programme from the EU, based on the potential addictive and negative effects of this programme on the physical and mental health of users.

Beyond this, the Commission cannot comment on ongoing investigations.

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

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2664.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_926.