

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000463/26
to the Commission
Marieke Ehlers (Pfe), Sebastian Kruis (Pfe)
(5 February 2026)**

Subject: Arbitrary investigation of Grok/X

The Commission has announced enforcement action against the social media platform X and its AI tool Grok, citing concerns related to AI-generated images and alleged risks under the Digital Services Act. This action has been presented as exceptional and urgent.

However, it is beyond dispute that image manipulation and the creation of misleading or harmful images have been possible for decades, using widely available software such as Photoshop. For years, even 14-year-olds have been technically capable of producing comparable manipulated images, and this has not triggered EU enforcement action against the providers of the tools.

At the same time, numerous AI tools currently operating in the EU offer image-generation capabilities identical to Grok's, yet remain untouched by comparable Commission action.

In this context:

1. What objective, technical or legal criteria distinguish Grok from other image-generation tools, including long-standing software capable of producing the same outputs, and thus justify this selective enforcement?
2. Does the Commission accept that targeting one platform while tolerating functionally equivalent tools undermines the principles of equal treatment, proportionality and legal certainty under EU law?
3. Given that the owner of X has publicly criticised the Commission, can the Commission categorically deny that political disagreement has influenced its decision to single out X and Grok?

Submitted: 5.2.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(3 March 2026)**

The Digital Services Act ⁽¹⁾ (DSA) sets specific obligations for providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs), whose average monthly active recipients in the EU are equal to or higher than 45 million.

This is because VLOPs and VLOSEs may cause societal risks different in scope and impact from those caused by smaller platforms.

Providers of VLOPs and VLOSEs are notably required to assess and mitigate systemic risks stemming from the design, functioning and use of their services, such as risks associated with the dissemination of illegal content through their services.

Non-consensual sexually explicit deepfakes of women and minors enabled by Grok on the VLOP X, as corroborated by independent public reports, are unacceptable and are far beyond comparison with what was enabled by software that are several decades old.

On 26 January 2026, the Commission initiated new proceedings concerning X, which will determine whether the provider of X properly assessed and mitigated risks associated with the deployment of Grok's functionalities into the X service in the EU.

This includes assessing and mitigating risks related to the dissemination of illegal content in the EU, such as manipulated sexually explicit images, including content that may amount to child sexual abuse material.

The Commission is committed to enforcing the DSA fairly and proportionately to ensure a safe and open online environment for all citizens in the EU.

The Commission applies the DSA's criteria objectively and uniformly to all designated VLOPs and VLOSEs, regardless of their origin.

⁽¹⁾ 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).