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E-001428/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.5.2026)

The Commission is aware of the report ‘Harassment as Infrastructure: How Telegram’s design enables technology-facilitated gender-based violence in Italy and Spain’ by AI Forensics, an independent organisation, and of its conclusions that Telegram’s infrastructure, including the features available through its premium subscription, allows and enables the perpetration and incitement of gender-based violence and child sexual abuse material, including depictions of incest and rape. The report has not been commissioned or paid for by the Commission.

The abuse of women and children on Telegram – including the non-consensual sharing of intimate images (NCII), the use of spyware and hacking tools, and doxxing – threatens the fundamental rights of the victims. The Digital Services Act (DSA)¹ requires that online content is moderated in line with the platforms’ own terms and conditions as well as applicable national and EU law, to ensure the online space is safe for all its users, including women and minors. Moreover, Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women², currently in its transposition period until 2027, criminalises the most serious forms of cyberviolence, including NCII and manipulated images.

Designation as a very large online platform under the DSA is subject to the conditions and procedures set out in Article 33 DSA. Telegram is not designated as a very large online platform. As Telegram has appointed its legal representative in Belgium, the national competent Digital Service Coordinator (DSC)³ to enforce Telegram’s obligations under the DSA is the (prospective) Belgian DSC, the Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications (BIPT). The Commission is in regular contact with the BIPT.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>.

³ Digital Services Coordinators <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-dscs>.