

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003419/26
to the Commission
Hanna Gedin (The Left)
(1 September 2026)**

Subject: Social media platforms' responsibility to remove content that incites violence

On 21 August 2026, a horrific violent attack took place at a school in Fagersta, Sweden. One girl was killed and several others were injured. Before the attack, the suspected perpetrator shared posts on TikTok glorifying violence and expressing admiration for previous attacks on schools.

With regard to the Fagersta case, it appears that the social media platform in question failed to fulfil its obligation to take prompt action to remove content inciting violence. Bearing in mind the legislation in place at EU level on platforms' responsibility to spot and remove illegal content online (such as the EU regulation on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online and the Digital Services Act):

1. What responsibility do the platforms bear when it comes to taking prompt action to remove content that incites violence?
2. Does the Commission intend to impose fines or other sanctions when social media companies, as was the case in Fagersta, fail to remove such content?
3. What other measures are being considered to prevent the dissemination of content relating to preparations for school attacks?

Submitted: 1.9.2026

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

The Commission was made aware of this attack and deeply regrets the tragic loss of life.

The EU's digital rulebook introduced clear legal frameworks, responsibilities and obligations regarding illegal content.

Article 6 of the Digital Services Act ⁽¹⁾ (DSA) provides that hosting service providers are not liable for illegal activity or content hosted on their services, on the conditions that they do not have actual knowledge of it and that they, upon obtaining such awareness, act expeditiously to remove or to disable access to it. Platforms are held liable according to the applicable other EU laws or national laws for failure to remove such content ⁽²⁾.

Under the Terrorist Content Online (TCO) Regulation ⁽³⁾, national competent authorities can issue removal orders, which providers must implement within one hour. The classification of content as terrorist, the issuing of orders and penalties fall primarily within Member States' responsibilities.

Article 14(5) of the TCO Regulation and Article 18 of the DSA oblige providers to promptly notify authorities of relevant information that suggests criminal offences posing a threat to a person's life or safety may occur.

Providers of very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search engines (VLOSEs) are required to assess and mitigate systemic risks stemming from their services, including the dissemination of illegal content ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission monitors whether providers of such VLOPs and VLOSEs comply with these obligations. Failure to comply has consequences.

As per the TCO, providers that are designated as exposed to terrorist content are required to take additional specific measures to prevent the misuse and dissemination of online content for terrorist purposes ⁽⁵⁾.

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

⁽²⁾ See Chapter II of the DSA.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/784/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ See Articles 34 and 35 of the DSA.

⁽⁵⁾ See Article 5 of the TCO Regulation.