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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Online Platforms: Society
DSA Risk Management and User Rights

Brussels
CNECT.F.2/MM

PETITION "Fine Meta and X the maximum - protect our children under the Digital Services Act"

Dear petitioner,

We would like to thank you for your correspondence of 17 September 2026 in which you ask the Commission to impose maximum possible amount of fines on Meta and X in relation to their failure to protect children online.

Protecting users of online platforms, including minors, is a key priority for the European Commission. Under the DSA, users should be able to explore, learn and connect online without being steered towards unhealthy digital habits.

As you may be aware, on 26 January 2025, the Commission launched an investigation against X under the Digital Services Act (DSA), which will assess whether the company properly assessed and mitigated risks associated with the deployment of Grok's functionalities into X in the EU. ([1]) This includes 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 has been looking into and investigating the deployment of Grok functionalities in the X service already before recent events and has taken steps to assess X's compliance with the DSA in relation to these integrations. You will appreciate that we are not in a position to comment on the specific aspects of the investigation or speculate about possible outcome, including fines that may be imposed, should this be considered justified.

On 5 December 2025, the Commission issued a fine of €120 million to X for breaching its transparency obligations under the DSA. The breaches include the deceptive design of its 'blue checkmark', the lack of transparency of its advertising repository, and the failure to provide access to public data for researchers. ([2]) Investigation linked to the areas of dissemination of illegal content and the effectiveness of the measures taken to combat information manipulation in X, continues.

As regards Meta, on 10 July 2026 the Commission preliminarily found that Meta is in breach of its obligations under the DSA to identify, analyse, assess and mitigate risks related to the protection of minors and users' wellbeing stemming from the potentially addictive design of its service. ([3])

Our preliminary investigation shows that Meta failed to properly assess and effectively mitigate the risks posed by the addictive design of Instagram and Facebook to the mental and physical wellbeing of users. This includes design features such as infinite scroll, autoplay, push notifications and its highly personalised recommender system. Similarly to the on-going investigations, the Commission is not in a position to provide further details about the on-going proceedings or speculate about their possible outcomes, including any possible fines.

In addition, the proposed KIDS Act[3] specifies the Guidelines in law, providing dos and don'ts for all services in scope. For social media and video-sharing platforms accessible to minors, the proposal bans designs encouraging compulsive use. It also sets common age rules for creating an account on these services: The proposal prohibits social media accounts under 13 and provides for parent-supervised accounts at 13 and 14, as well as for independent accounts from 15. The KIDS Act proposal also speeds up Commission enforcement.

Hopefully, these developments and information provided demonstrate our continued efforts to protect children in the current and future online environment.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Sparas
Head of Unit

([1])https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-investigates-grok-and-xs-recommender-systems-under-digital-services-act

([2]) https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-fines-x-eu120-million-under-digital-services-act

([3]) https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-preliminarily-finds-addictive-design-instagram-and-facebook-breach-digital-services-act

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