

Dear President of the European Commission,

The protection of minors in the digital environment has become an urgent and pressing matter. According to data shared by the European Commission, young people who engage in abusive or excessive use of social media face nearly a 60% higher risk of depression, with the risk increasing by 13% for every additional hour spent online. Moreover, Eurobarometer 2025 indicates that over 90% of Europeans believe that action to protect children online is a matter of urgency. These findings echo the concerns that civil society, scholars, and medical professionals have been voicing for years.

In your timely State of the Union address of 10 September 2025, you announced that the Commission would examine minors' access to social media and consider stronger safeguards, acknowledging the consequences of children's "unfettered access" to digital platforms. You rightly highlighted that minors are increasingly exposed to bullying, adult content, and self-harm online. You also underscored that certain algorithms have been deliberately designed to foster addictive behaviours, particularly among the most vulnerable users, and memorably observed that parents are "drowning against the tsunami of Big Tech flooding their family homes."

Significantly, you further announced your **intention to convene**, by the end of 2025, a **panel of experts to advise on the most appropriate European approach to regulating social media**. The objective of this panel—to assess existing legislative models, including initiatives currently being implemented in Australia, and to identify the next steps for Europe—was also reflected in the **Commission Work Programme for 2026**.

However, five months after this important announcement, **there is still no public information regarding the establishment of this panel, its composition, or its specific mandate**. At a time when the protection of minors requires decisive leadership, several Member States—among them Spain, France, and Denmark—are advancing determined national initiatives. While these efforts reflect legitimate concern, **a fragmented regulatory landscape risks undermining the integrity of the internal market and weakening the coherence of the European response**.

**What is now required is a strong and coherent European framework to protect minors online**, including the establishment of clear and **well-defined age limits**, as well as the development of **effective, robust, and privacy-preserving age verification systems**.

Beyond protection, this is also about **European digital sovereignty**. In the current geopolitical context, Europe must be capable of defining its own standards and rules to safeguard its children and young people.

The proposed panel of experts represents a constructive and necessary first step toward building such a framework. **Yet European citizens expect not only words and announcements, but action**.

In this context, **we would therefore respectfully ask:**

- At what stage is the establishment of the expert panel announced in September 2025?
- For what reasons has the panel not yet been formally constituted?
- When does the Commission intend for the panel to begin its work?

As Members of the European Parliament, we fully support the Commission's efforts in this field. At the same time, we are convinced that **we must now translate intention into tangible progress**. We owe it to Europe's children, to young people, and to their families to demonstrate that the European Union stands firmly on their side—capable of protecting them in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. **We must ensure that digital platforms do not rob our children and young people of their childhood and youth.**

**This is not only a political priority; it is a moral responsibility.** It is also a question of European sovereignty and of our capacity to act decisively to defend our model and our values. Europe must lead, not follow, in protecting its minors.

*Yours sincerely\**,

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Agence Europe