

EN

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Answer given by Ms Johansson
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.1.2022)

The Commission condemns all manifestations of antisemitism. The EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life¹ explicitly aims at tackling antisemitism online, including when originating from violent extremist ideologies. It also encourages Member States to strengthen the capacity of national law enforcement and judicial authorities to prosecute illegal online hate speech. The Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia² criminalises online and offline antisemitic speech inciting violence and hatred.

The Regulation (EU) 784/2021³ addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online will enable Member States to order hosting service providers offering services in the EU to remove terrorist content. In addition, Europol's EU Internet Referral Unit sends referrals of violent extremist and terrorist content online to platforms for consideration to remove under their terms of service.

The EU Internet Forum and the Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online⁴ are voluntary initiatives to engage with IT companies to prevent the online spread of illegal hate speech, including when antisemitic, and violent extremist and terrorist content. The Forum will reach out to video-gaming platforms to discuss take down and prevention of dissemination of antisemitic and terrorist content, including if necessary the game in question. The proposed Digital Services Act⁵ also includes measures allowing users and trusted flaggers to report content.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-antisemitism/eu-strategy-combating-antisemitism-and-fostering-jewish-life-2021-2030_en

² Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 55. See: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008F0913>

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online, OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, p. 79. See: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/784/oj>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/eu-code-conduct-countering-illegal-hate-speech-online_en

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/digital-services-act-package>