

**Question for written answer E-003383/2022/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Eva Kaili (S&D)**

Subject: Protecting children's rights on online platforms and dating applications

Blindchat, a blind dating application, is currently in the spotlight following revelations that a 12-year-old girl was being repeatedly sexually abused. A 53-year-old man had made a special profile for the young girl on the platform, which he then promoted to potential child abusers<sup>1</sup>. Once retrieved by authorities, the man's phone log revealed evidence of more than 200 calls from potential child sex offenders.

This shocking discovery, as well as the recent case of the 'sugar dating' site<sup>2</sup>, should prompt legislators to implement stringent rules for app stores and internet access providers. These platforms need age assurance and age verification tools to protect children from online sexual predators.

Given this:

1. What concrete measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that robust age assurance and age verification tools are put in place to protect children from other online app users?
2. How can the Commission utilise legislation on AI technology to prevent online child abuse cases?
3. How can the Commission ensure that the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive is consistent with other EU legislation in protecting children online, and how can we ensure that it sets clear rules for online service providers to embed safety-by-design tools, which would safeguard children online?

Submitted: 14.10.2022

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.protothema.gr/greece/article/1294229/kolonos-o-53hronos-pou-exedide-tin-12hroni-eihe-ftiaxeidiko-profil-se-efarmogi-gnorimion/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://sverigesradio.se/artikel/swedish-minors-selling-sex-on-sugar-dating-site>