

**Question for written answer E-004128/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Lensa image-generation app: concerns regarding bias, harassment, privacy, and EU and national security

Lensa is a popular image-generation app with Russian ownership¹. The AI system Stable Diffusion used by the app was trained on facial images scraped from the internet, often without consent². Experts have questioned Lensa's vague privacy policy and further use of user-uploaded images for system training³. The system reportedly displays strong bias and could be used for harassment. Users can upload photos of anyone and the app's female images are often nude or in sexual poses, especially when they feature Asian women, while men are depicted as astronauts or doctors⁴. The system even sexualises images of children and depicts them in (half-)nude and sexual poses⁵.

1. What is the Commission doing to address the discriminatory (including racist and sexist) and dangerous outcomes of such models, such as material sexualising children or images of women that have the potential to be used for harassment?
2. Where does the GDPR stand with respect to the training of these systems using people's facial images uploaded to Lensa and scraped off the internet?
3. Does the large-scale uploading of facial images to a Russian-owned company by European citizens pose a direct or indirect risk to the security of the EU and its Member States?

Submitted: 21.12.2022

¹ <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2022/12/09/is-lensa-app-onschuldig>, <https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/12/12/1064751/the-viral-ai-avatar-app-lensa-undressed-me-without-my-consent>.

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/12/08/lensa-ai-portraits>, <https://www.demorgen.be/beter-leven/we-delen-met-lensa-alweer-massaal-ons-gezicht-met-een-russische-app-maar-dat-is-niet-het-fundamentele-probleem~be371134>.

³ <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2022/12/09/is-lensa-app-onschuldig>.

⁴ <https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/12/12/1064751/the-viral-ai-avatar-app-lensa-undressed-me-without-my-consent>, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/12/08/lensa-ai-portraits>.

⁵ <https://www.wired.com/story/lensa-artificial-intelligence-csem>.