

**Question for written answer E-002143/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Risks related to children's use of social media

The increasing prevalence of social media in children's lives has raised concerns about their online safety and well-being. Recognising the significance of this issue, the Commission has been actively engaged in addressing the risks associated with children's use of social media platforms. One crucial aspect is holding social media companies accountable for harmful content or interactions on their platforms. Ensuring the safety of children requires robust measures and actions that promote transparency, responsibility and appropriate enforcement mechanisms. With regard to the study entitled 'The influence of social media on the development of children and young people'¹:

1. What actions is the Commission taking to ensure that providers of online platforms are taking appropriate and proportionate measures to protect minors as established in the Digital Services Act²?
2. How could social media companies be held accountable for harmful content or interactions on their platforms, and what actions is the Commission taking to ensure this?
3. What steps is it taking to balance the need to protect children online with the importance of freedom of expression and access to information, and what measures is the Commission taking in terms of digital empowerment and media literacy to bridge the digital divide among children?

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¹ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/733109/IPOL_STU\(2023\)733109_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/733109/IPOL_STU(2023)733109_EN.pdf).

² Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act) (OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1).