Online privacy and safety

Common EU rules guarantee a high standard of privacy online. The EU is committed to ensuring citizens, and particularly children, are safe online.

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ePrivacy

Each time we go online, we are entrusting our personal information to the websites we use and to the companies that provide us with the Internet. This information can range from our names and contact details, to our likes and dislikes, to our credit card information.

EU-wide rules can help protect our data when we browse the Internet. The EU is currently discussing new privacy rules that build trust and security online for the Digital Decade. The rules will give us greater control over our data and devices. And, they will update current ePrivacy rules to cover new forms of communication online.

New ePrivacy rules go hand in hand with other EU initiatives to ensure our privacy online. For example, the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) ensures our personal data can only be gathered under strict conditions and for legitimate purposes.
A better Internet for children

Around one in three Internet users is a child. Children are accessing content online at younger and younger ages.

While there are excellent opportunities for learning and creativity online, there are also risks. Children may be exposed to fake news, cyberbullying, privacy breaches, harmful content and grooming.

The EU launched its Strategy for a Better Internet for Children (BIK+) with the aim of introducing specific measures for young people online.

To create a better internet for children, the Commission has set goals to:

- encourage more creative and educational content for children
- foster awareness and empowerment through digital literacy and online safety courses
- create a safe environment through age appropriate privacy settings and parental controls
- tackle child sexual abuse and exploitation online

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EARLIER THIS WEEK, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FORMALLY SENT AMAZON A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE DIGITAL SERVICES ACT (DSA). THE COMMISSION IS REQUESTING AMAZON TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ON THE MEASURES IT HAS TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO RISK ASSESSMENTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES TO PROTECT CONSUMERS ONLINE, IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO THE DISSEMINATION OF ILLEGAL PRODUCTS AND THE PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, AS WELL AS ON COMPLIANCE OF RECOMMENDER SYSTEMS WITH THE RELEVANT
provisions of the DSA.

PRESS RELEASE | 10 November 2023
Commission sends requests for information to Meta and Snap under the Digital Services Act

Today, the European Commission has formally sent Meta and Snap requests for information under the Digital Services Act (DSA). The Commission is requesting the companies to provide more information on the measures they have taken to comply with their obligations related to the protection of minors under the DSA, including the obligations related to risk assessments and mitigation measures to protect minors online, in particular with regard to the risks to mental health and physical health, and on the use of their services by minors.

PRESS RELEASE | 09 November 2023
Commission sends requests for information to TikTok and YouTube under the Digital Services Act

Today, the European Commission has formally sent TikTok and YouTube requests for information under the Digital Services Act (DSA). The Commission is requesting the companies to provide more information on the measures they have taken to comply with their obligations related to protection of minors under the DSA, including the obligations related to risk assessments and mitigation measures to protect minors online, in particular with regard to the risks to mental health and physical health, and on the use of their services by minors.

PRESS RELEASE | 03 October 2023
Commission recommends carrying out risk assessments on four critical technology areas: advanced semiconductors, artificial intelligence, quantum, biotechnologies

The Commission has adopted a Recommendation on critical technology areas for the EU’s economic security, for further risk assessment with Member States.

Browse Strengthening trust and security
The Strategy for a better Internet for kids (BIK+) will ensure that children are protected, respected and empowered online.

Source URL: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/online-privacy