

Bruxelles, June 18th

***Letter of Ministers of Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Belgium)***

***Protecting Minors from Online harms and risks: Age verification obligation in Commission's proposal for Guidelines under Article 28 of the DSA***

Dear Executive Vice President Virkkunen,  
Dear Executive Vice President Minzatu,

Several Member States – Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Belgium) - wish to stress the crucial importance of including mandatory age verification for access to social media platforms in the guidelines on the protection of minors online under the Digital Services Act.

A non-paper presented by Greece and co-signed by France, Spain, Denmark, Cyprus, Slovenia and Italy was submitted to you on 6 June 2025 expressing our joint request and highlighting the lack of widespread and properly enforced age verification mechanisms and the need for a regulatory framework setting out mandatory age verification obligations for social media platforms.

The crisis in our children's mental health and welfare has reached a critical point, exacerbated by the uncontrolled expansion of social networking platforms that prioritise engagement over children's safety. Given the specific nature of this type of platform and the high level of risk they represent for children, proven by the international scientific community and confirmed in the very Terms and conditions presented by these players, the well-documented presence of minors on social networks should be considered a sufficiently high risk factor to require age verification as the only method of age assurance. **We therefore call the Commission to move away from the current status quo regarding online age assurance methods and to consider mandatory age verification for access to social media platforms as an indispensable and appropriate measure in view of the risks involved.**

We would like to reiterate our support for both the comprehensive and rich approach of the draft Guidelines and call for the full and rapid implementation of all recommendations in these guidelines, as soon as they come into force.

Yours faithfully,

### *List of Ministers*

Alexander Pröll, State Secretary for Digitalization, Combating Antisemitism, Public Service, and the Constitution, **Austria**

Prof. Radovan Fuchs, PhD., Minister of Science, Education and Youth, **Croatia**

Damir Habijan, Minister of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation, **Croatia**

Dr. Nicodemus Damianou, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Transformation, **Cyprus**

Caroline Stage Olsen, Minister for Digital Affairs, **Denmark**

Mattias Tesfaye, Minister for Children and Education, **Denmark**

Clara Chappaz, Minister of Artificial intelligence and Digital Affairs, **France**

Elisabeth Borne, Minister of National Education, Higher Education and Research, **France**

Dimitrios Papastergiou, Minister of Digital Governance, **Greece**

Sofia Zacharaki, Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sport, **Greece**

Patrick O'Donovan, Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, **Ireland**

Prof. Giuseppe Valditara, Minister for Education and Merit, **Italy**

Alessio Butti, Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, responsible for technological innovation and digital transition, **Italy**

Tomáš Drucker, Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth, **Slovakia**

Giuseppe Valditara, Minister for Education and Merit, Italy Vinko Logaj, Minister of Education and Care, **Slovenia**

Ksenija Klampfer, Minister of Digital Transformation, **Slovenia**

Oscar López Águeda, Minister for Digital and Civil Service Transformation, **Spain**

María del Pilar Alegría Continente, Minister for Education and Vocational Training, **Spain**

Valérie Glatigny, First Vice-President of the Government of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Minister for Education and Further Education, **Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Belgium)**