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| Contribution by the European Commission |
| HOW TO PROTECT AND EMPOWER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ONLINE – UPDATE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  |
| **Purpose**The objective of this presentation is to update the working group on the latest initiatives at the EU level to better protect and empower children and young people online. **Action required**This document is transmitted to the Council Working Group on child online protection **for information**.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**[*https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en*](https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en) |

At the hearth of Commission’s work for a better internet for children there is a balanced approach between protection of children from online harms and their empowerment and active participation in the online environment.

The EU toolbox has 3 important corner stones:

* the Digital Services Act (DSA) with strong provisions on protection of minors, which are a priority for the enforcement work;
* the Better Internet for Kids+ Strategy (BIK+), supporting and complementing the DSA to protect, empower and respect children online, including through the EU co-funded network of Safer Internet Centres;
* the current work with Member States towards a European approach to Age Verification, which includes the development in 2025 of a secure, privacy preserving and interoperable age verification solution. This will be a bridge before the EU Digital Wallet is available to EU citizens and residents by end 2026.

Under the new Commission, protection and empowerment of children will continue to be a key priority. The Commission will continue its efforts in ensuring a better internet for children, with an EU-wide inquiry on the broader impacts of social media on well-being, an action plan on cyberbullying, and close attention to unethical techniques by platforms, such as addictive design.

The contribution will provide the details on latest initiatives at EU level.

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