

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2026) 2528

Directive (EU) 2015/1535

Notification: 2026/0490/SK

Notification of a draft text from a Member State

Notification – Notification – Notifizierung – Нотификация – Oznámení – Notifikation – Γνωστοποίηση – Notificación – Teavitamine – Ilmoitus – Obavijest – Bejelentés – Notifica – Pranešimas – Paziņojums – Notifika – Kennisgeving – Zawiadomienie – Notificação – Notificare – Oznámenie – Obvestilo – Anmälan – Fógra a thabhairt

Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délai - Kein Fristbeginn - Не се предвижда период на прекъсване - Nezahajuje prodlení - Fristerne indledes ikke - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - No abre el plazo - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Ne otvara razdoblje kašnjenja - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Non fa decorrere la mora - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Atlikšanas laikposms nesākas - Ma jiftaħx il-perijodi ta' dewmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Não inicia o prazo - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nezačína oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Inleder ingen frist - Ní osclaíonn sé na moilleanna

MSG: 20262528.EN

1. MSG 001 IND 2026 0490 SK EN 10-09-2026 SK NOTIF

2. Slovakia

3A. Úrad pre normalizáciu, metrológiu a skúšobníctvo Slovenskej republiky
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3B. Ministerstvo školstva, výskumu, vývoja a mládeže Slovenskej republiky
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4. 2026/0490/SK - SERV60 - Internet services

5. Act on the integrated system for protection against radicalisation and mobilisation to violence and on amendments to certain acts (government draft, parliamentary paper 1448, IXth electoral term)

6. Online social networking service as defined in § 15 of the draft Act (a functional definition combining Article 2(2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/1925 – the DMA, and Article 3(i) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 – the DSA)

7.

8. The draft prohibits the creation and use of a user account on an online social networking service by a person under the age of 16 (§ 16(1)). Compliance with the age requirement is demonstrated in a manner that neither allows any additional identification data to be obtained nor makes it possible to determine which service the verification is used for; the European Digital Identity Framework may be used (§ 16(2)). Providers established in Slovakia will be overseen by the Council for Media Services; in the case of providers established in another Member State or in the case of very large platforms, the procedure set out in Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 – the DSA – will be followed (§ 17). Low-risk categories of services and micro and small enterprises are excluded from the scope of application (§ 15). The first application of the age requirement is deferred until 1 January 2028 (§ 22(7)).

Keywords: social network, children, age limit, age verification, protection of minors, information society service, DSA, DMA, oversight, Council for Media Services.

9. The public interest objective pursued by this draft is to protect the mental and physical health and development of children from the risks posed by social networks during a sensitive stage of development (harmful content, algorithmically driven addictive behaviour, cyberbullying, manipulative narratives), in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 3, 18 and 19) and Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 (DSA).

The mutual recognition clause is not included in the draft – the measure is a user-facing age restriction, not a requirement relating to a product or provider to which mutual recognition could apply.

9a. Content disseminated on social networks has been shown to contain elements that are harmful to a child's development. The chosen age limit of 16 years is based on findings from developmental psychology and neuroscience, according to which early and middle adolescence is a phase of intensive development of identity, critical thinking and emotional regulation, during which children are significantly more vulnerable to algorithmic content recommendations, manipulative practices and radicalising narratives. The limit is also supported by the document 'Recommendations for the Healthy Use of Screen Media by Children and Adolescents' (2025) – a consensus of 14 professional societies, supported by the Slovak Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth, which recommends restricted access to the internet and to a child's own smartphone before the ages of 9 and 12 respectively. Social networks today do not function as passive communication platforms, but utilise algorithmic recommendation systems designed to maximise the time users spend on the platform; as a result, children may be exposed to harmful or manipulative content, disinformation and cyberbullying even without actively searching for it. A complete ban on the creation and use of accounts until a specified age therefore directly and effectively limits minors' exposure to such content and is an appropriate tool for achieving the intended objective. The relevance of this risk is also confirmed by the fact that the European Commission is conducting proceedings against

several platforms for failing to provide adequate protection for minors under Article 28 of the Digital Services Act (DSA).

9b. The measure does not impose a blanket ban on access to social networks for all children, but sets an appropriate age limit (16 years), beyond which the restriction does not apply; at the same time, it excludes from its scope low-risk service categories (e-mail and direct communication, encyclopaedic and educational platforms, news content, online shops, blogs) and micro and small enterprises. Existing legislation at EU level (in particular Article 28 of the DSA and related self-regulation and parental control tools) has proved inadequate in practice – children continue to be regularly exposed to inappropriate and harmful content on social networks, as confirmed by the fact that the Commission is conducting proceedings against several platforms for failing to provide adequate protection for minors. Less restrictive measures (technical parental control tools, restrictions on functionality, platform self-regulation) would not achieve the intended objective, as they do not rely on a uniform and enforceable standard and depend on parents' digital skills and availability, which vary from family to family – it cannot be assumed that all parents possess the same level of digital competence required to use parental controls effectively. The measure is therefore limited to the extent strictly necessary to achieve the objective.

9c. The burden placed on service providers is limited for a number of reasons. Firstly, the obligation is formulated as a rule applicable to the user (a prohibition on the creation and use of an account by a person under the age of 16), rather than as a separate new technical obligation on the platform beyond what is already envisaged by the age verification framework under Article 28(3) of the DSA. Secondly, the method of age verification is based on the principle of data minimisation – the provider obtains only information on whether the age requirement has been met or not, without access to further identification data and without information as to which service the verification was used for; the draft recommends utilising the European Digital Identity Framework, and the verification criteria are based on the Commission's guidelines on Article 28 of the DSA. Thirdly, the draft does not establish a separate, parallel oversight mechanism – oversight is carried out by the Council for Media Services, which is entrusted with the role of Digital Services Coordinator under the DSA, thereby avoiding duplicate obligations vis-à-vis two supervisory authorities and respecting the country-of-origin principle. Fourthly, the scope of application is narrowly defined to the category of online social networking services (Article 2(2) of the DMA and Article 3(i) of the DSA) and excludes micro and small enterprises and low-risk categories of services. These elements were deliberately formulated to reflect the reservations raised by the European Commission in its opinion on a similar French draft.

10. Reference to the basic texts: No basic text(s) available

11. No

12.

13. No

14. No

15. Yes

16.

TBT aspects: No

SPS aspects: No

European Commission

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