

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2026) 1048

Directive (EU) 2015/1535

Notification: 2026/0185/FR

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 - Nezahtuje 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 késésekét - Non fa decorrere la mora - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Atlikšanas laikposms nesākas - Ma jiftaħ 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: 20261048.EN

1. MSG 001 IND 2026 0185 FR EN 09-04-2026 FR NOTIF

2. France

3A. Ministères économiques et financiers

Direction générale des entreprises

SCIDE/SQUALPI/PNRP

Bât. Sieyès -Teledoc 143

61, Bd Vincent Auriol

75703 PARIS Cedex 13

d9834.france@finances.gouv.fr

3B. Ministères économiques et financiers

Direction générale des Entreprises

SEN / Pôle Régulation des Plateformes Numériques

Bât. Necker

120, rue de Bercy

75572 PARIS Cedex 1

4. 2026/0185/FR - SERV60 - Internet services

5. Legislative provisions aimed at protecting minors from the risks to which they are exposed by the use of social networks

6. Information Society Services

7.

8. The purpose of this notification is to refer to the French bill aimed at protecting minors from the risks to which they are exposed by the use of social networks, in its version from the Senate, which adopted the text on first reading, on 30 March, 2026, following that of the National Assembly, on 26 January 2026.

It focuses in particular on Article 1, which aims to enshrine in French law a rule prohibiting access to certain online social networking services for minors under the age of fifteen. In its version from the National Assembly, Article 1 established a principle of general prohibition. The version proposed by the Senate suggests prohibiting social networks deemed harmful to children's development, which will be defined by decree, and making access to other social networks conditional on parental authorisation.

9. This bill forms part of France's priority action in the area of online child protection, at both national and European levels.

Within the framework set by the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the guidelines on the protection of minors, published this summer by the European Commission, Article 1 of the bill aims to establish a "digital majority" rule according to which access to online social networking services is prohibited below a certain age.

Based on documented objective assessment of the risks to minors, particularly within the framework of the "Children - Screens" expert commission, the draft text sets this threshold at fifteen years. This choice is consistent with the age set in French law for the validity of consent from minors to the processing of their personal data. In France, it also corresponds to the age of entry into higher secondary school, an important stage in adolescence and the journey of young people towards their progressive autonomy.

The prohibition rule is inspired by other national provisions prohibiting the sale of certain products to minors (tobacco, alcohol, etc.) for reasons of public health and safety, by prohibiting minors under fifteen years of age from accessing the services concerned. It therefore aims to fall within the margin left to Member States to define their own legal frameworks.

The prohibition targets services provided by an online platform and integrating the functionalities of an online social networking service, in particular to avoid making it impossible to prohibit certain online video sharing sites that do not fall within the definition of social networks as defined by the Digital Markets Act (DMA).

The system distinguishes between two categories of services:

- services that may be detrimental to the physical, mental or moral development of children and adolescents due to the content disseminated or the recommendation systems used, which present a particular risk and therefore justify their being purely and simply prohibited to minors under fifteen years of age. The list of these services is established by order of the minister in charge of digital affairs, taken after consultation with the audiovisual and digital communication regulatory authority [l'Autorité de régulation de la communication audiovisuelle et numérique] (Arcom). Services flagged by Arcom that substantially replicate the content or recommendation systems of one of the services listed on this public list (so-called "mirror" services) will also be considered equivalent to the services listed on this public list.

- other services not included on this list, which are accessible to minors aged fifteen, provided that they can provide proof of the express prior agreement of their parents. This parental authorisation, which can be revoked at any time, also specifies the conditions and limits of the minor's access to the service, in particular the nature of the accessible content, the authorised time slots and the maximum duration of use.

The system also expressly excludes from its scope certain categories of services that do not present specific risks for minors, such as online encyclopedias or platforms for developing and sharing free software.

The control and sanction regime of the rule is part of the governance scheme of the DSA regulation, placing Arcom at the heart of the system, by virtue of its missions and prerogatives provided for by the regulation. Arcom is thus in charge of directly monitoring compliance with the prohibition by social networks established in France or outside the EU, after consultation with the national commission for information technology and freedoms [Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés] (CNIL) regarding age verification systems.

10. References to the relevant basic texts:

11. No

12.

13. No

14. No

15. No

16.

TBT aspects: No

SPS aspects: No

European Commission

Contact point Directive (EU) 2015/1535

email: grow-dir2015-1535-central@ec.europa.eu