

Stéphanie Yon-Courtin
Députée au Parlement européen

Ursula Von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Brussels, on 2 September 2026

Subject: Meta settlement of 26 August 2026 in the United States: consequences for the proceedings opened under Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 and call for immediate action

Dear President von der Leyen,

On 26 August, before the Federal court in Oakland, Meta Platforms brought an end to the case filed against it by twenty-nine US state attorneys general. The company will pay up to 16.68 billion dollars, settling the claims of fifty-one attorneys general in all. It continues to deny any liability.

What deserves attention is what Meta gave in return. It has agreed to cap teenagers' use of Facebook and Instagram at two hours per day, a limit that cannot be lifted without parental consent. It will switch off notifications between ten in the evening and seven in the morning. It will submit its age assurance system to independent testing, offer a feed detached from its recommender systems, allow autoplay to be turned off, impose usage breaks, and set teenage accounts to private by default.

Six weeks earlier, on 10 July, your services found on a preliminary basis that the addictive design of Instagram and Facebook breaches the Digital Services Act. Infinite scroll, autoplay, push notifications and hyper-personalised recommendations were all named. The Commission considered Meta's risk assessment deficient under Articles 34 and 35 of the Digital Services Act, its mitigation measures ineffective, and called for precisely what Meta has now conceded on the other side of the Atlantic.

Meta publicly contested those findings. It is now offering them before an American judge.
What it deems unfounded in Brussels, it puts forward in Oakland.

We therefore ask you to see this procedure through without further delay: a non-compliance decision under Article 73 of the Digital Services Act, together with the penalties provided for in Article 74. And should commitments be accepted under Article 71, they must on no account fall short of what Meta has just granted to American users.

European children are worth no less than American ones. It would therefore be untenable for European minors to end up less well protected, when our framework is the most demanding in the world and the guidelines of 14 July 2025 on Article 28 of the Digital Services Act already recommend that autoplay and notifications be switched off by default.

One final point, which we have long argued for. Articles 82 and 51(3) of the Digital Services Act make it possible, once other powers have been exhausted and where an infringement persists and causes serious harm, to ask a court to restrict access to the service temporarily. The measure is proportionate and limited in time. It has been part of our law since February 2024 and has never been used. This is not about censoring a service or banning a social network; it is about no longer brandishing a threat that nobody believes in. A fine of a few billion is provisioned for and written off; a shutdown ordered by a judge reaches the business model itself.

We are writing to ask you to honour your commitments. One year ago, in your State of the Union Address of 10 September 2025, you said it was time to treat social media as we treat smoking, alcohol and adult content. On 21 October you were more specific: *"We will act on this in the coming year."* That year is now ending, and it is an American court that has obtained the first concessions from Meta.

Will the protection of minors online still be among your priorities? It remains one of ours. This Parliament has been mobilised since 2023, with the Digital Services Act and through many initiatives since. The Commission speaks but does not deliver. Meanwhile the mental health of young people keeps deteriorating, and in the gravest cases families have lost a child. What is at stake is not regulatory procedure: it is the health and well-being of our children.

After the words, the time for decisions.

We remain at your disposal, as well as that of the services of DG CNECT.

Stéphanie Yon-Courtin
Députée européenne

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