

EU wants to know how Meta tackles child sex abuse

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The investigation is the first step in procedures launched under the EU's new online content law known as the Digital Services Act.

The EU on Friday demanded Instagram-owner Meta provide more information about measures taken by the company to address child

sexual abuse online.

The request for information focuses on Meta's risk assessment and mitigation measures "linked to the protection of minors, including regarding the circulation of self-generated child [sexual abuse](#) material (SG-CSAM) on Instagram", the European Commission said.

Meta must also give information about "Instagram's recommender system and amplification of potentially harmful content", it added.

The investigation is the first step in procedures launched under the EU's Digital Services Act (DSA), but does not itself constitute an indication of legal violations or a move towards punishment.

Meta must respond by December 22.

A [report](#) by Stanford University and the Wall Street Journal in June this year said Instagram is the main platform used by pedophile networks to promote and sell content showing child sexual abuse.

Meta at the time said it worked "aggressively" to fight child exploitation.

The commission has already started a series of investigations against large digital platforms seeking information about how they are complying with the DSA.

It has sought more information from Meta in October about the spread of disinformation as well as a request for [information](#) last month about how the company protects children online.

The DSA is part of the European Union's powerful regulatory armory to bring big tech to heel, and requires digital giants take more aggressive action to counter the spread of illegal and harmful content as well as

disinformation.

Platforms face fines that can go up to six percent of global turnover for violations.

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