



**MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, BUSINESS
AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

European Commissioner for Internal Market
Mr. Thierry Breton

**MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY,
BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL
AFFAIRS**

Age verification on digital services

Dear Mr. Thierry Breton,

We welcome our common ambitions to mitigate the adverse impact of minors accessing harmful content online. As you point out, the Digital Service Act is already bringing some results in these endeavors. In addition, we appreciate the possibility provided by the Commission to influence the development of a voluntary standard for age verification through a working group.

The Danish government acknowledges the efforts put into the work by the Commission and the determination to put big tech on the agenda. This includes the DMA and the DSA. In addition, I appreciate the constructive dialogue with Commissioner Reynders' on consumer related initiatives related to this agenda. We fully support the ongoing fitness check of consumer legislation to make it fit for the digital world. However, there is still an urgent need to establish efficient solutions on age verification on digital services. The pressing nature of this matter underscores the necessity for swift action and collaborative efforts. Therefore, I strongly urge the Commission to conclude its work no later than by the end of the year.

To accelerate this process, we welcome the Commissions initiative to set up a working group with selected digital platforms to find efficient age verification systems. Big tech has created the problem and it should be their responsibility to make sure that no minors can access inappropriate content on their platforms. Therefore, we recommend setting legal requirements for the providers of harmful content to establish efficient age verification mechanisms themselves.

In case the providers of harmful content is not willing to establish age verification voluntarily, the most prudent way forward must be to initiate formal proceedings. Therefore, we welcome the Commissions formal proceedings to assess whether TikTok may have breached the DSA. It is our hope that this will serve as a stepping-stone to intensify the dialogue with the providers of harmful content and ultimately making them take the necessary steps to establish efficient age verification.

Shielding minors from harmful content online remains of utmost importance for the Danish Government. We hope that the Commission still shares our concerns and will work to create efficient age verification mechanisms that can quickly be put into effect at EU level.

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We remain at your disposal for further collaboration on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morten Bødskov', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Morten Bødskov
Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs