Council of the European Union

Brussels, 27 November 2026
(OR. en)

16412/26

TELECOM 594
AUDIO 148
COMPET 1456
JEUN 267
MI 1284
CONSOM 347
JAI 1516
DATAPROTECT 389
CODEC 2309

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council of 1 December 2026 AI risks and minors' safety – Promoting accountable AI for minors - Information from France and Spain, supported by Denmark

The digital space has reached a central role in minors' daily life, offering significant opportunities for learning and exchanging. However, growing scientific evidence now attests of the growing risks and threats for minors deriving from social media, AI services, video sharing platforms and other digital services. They increasingly impact their health and security, exposing them to harmful actors, inappropriate content, and addictive features that benefit from their vulnerabilities while endangering their development. In this context, many countries have taken action, setting up experts' groups or implementing age limits to protect children. In response to these challenges, the European regulatory framework that applies to online platforms has been enriched by the adoption of the Digital Services Act (DSA) in 2022, that marked a significant first step against the dissemination of illicit contents on digital platforms. Still, as shown by national initiatives, concerns regarding minors online remained to be addressed.

Numerous Member States have actively contributed to the discussions that resulted in July 2025 in the adoption by the Commission of the Guidelines pursuant to article 28 of the DSA. Last summer, by adopting the AI Omnibus, the EU forbade AI systems that generate or manipulate child pornography content. In September 2026, the Commission published its proposal for EU KIDS Act which marks a significant step forward. Member States have unanimously welcomed this proposal, committing themselves to actively contribute and swiftly adopt this new regulation. Moreover, evidence shows specific risks associated with AI uses for minors' mental health, whose cognitive, emotional and social skills are still being built. The EU KIDS Act draft already proposes strengthened safeguards and obligations for providers of AI companions and general conversational chatbots. Protection should come before harm rather than after it, so that AI development does not come at a high cost for young people. Last 10th November, the Children First Declaration, during the Child Summit at the ninth edition of the Paris Peace Forum, stressed that unsafe or poorly calibrated algorithms, recommender systems and artificial intelligence can undermine safety, attention span, relationships and healthy development of children. Finally, EU leaders also addressed societal impacts, safety and security of AI at the informal EUCO of 13th November.

In this context, France would like to propose an AOB on AI risks and minors' safety. This request aims to raise attention of the Telecommunications Council on this matter and share latest findings among Member States on AI effects on minors, in order to call for accountable AI systems, and specifically chatbots and AI companions, in the EU's approach and framework.