Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

PUBLIC

Brussels, 02 June 2026

WK 7851/2026 INIT

LIMITE

TELECOM
CYBER
JAI
AUDIO
JEUN
COMPET
MI
CONSOM

This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.

MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society
Subject:	Commission Recommendation on establishing a common framework for EU wide Age Verification technologies: Presentation

Delegations will find in the annex the presentation given in the Working Pary on 2 June.

PUBLIC

European Commission

Commission Recommendation

on establishing a common framework for EU wide Age Verification technologies

Council Working Party on
Telecommunications and Information Society
2 June 2026

Age Verification to protect minors online

PUBLIC

- It is crucial to give children **age-appropriate online experiences**. 24% of 14 to 17-year-olds in six EU countries reported seeing pornographic content at least once per week.
- **Robust, user-friendly age verification tools** are one method to address this while ensuring browsing **privacy** for adults.

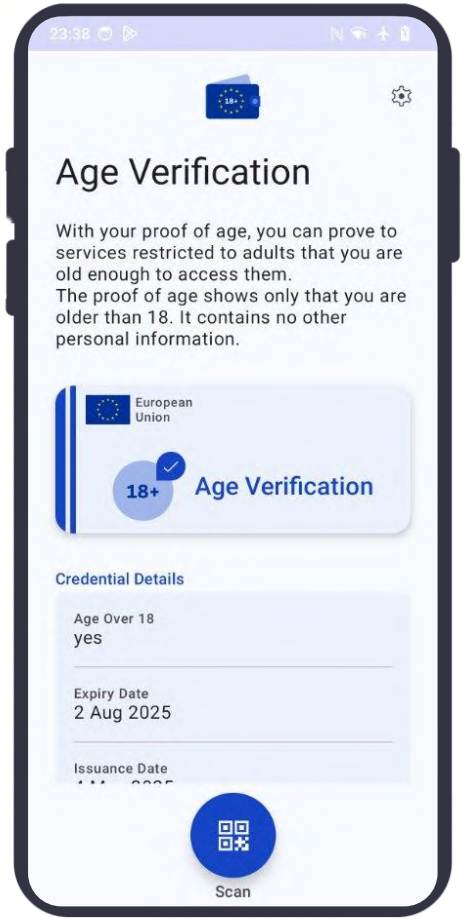


- Age verification is **part of our broader strategy to protect minors online** and it is only one piece of the puzzle.
- It goes hand in hand with work on the **Digital Services Act enforcement**, the **Action Plan Against Cyberbullying**, the **Better Internet for Kids Strategy** and the work of the **Special Panel on Child Online Safety**.

EU Age Verification Blueprint

PUBLIC

- The Commission has developed an **EU age verification blueprint** that enables users to prove they meet a required age threshold without revealing their exact age, identity or any other personal details. This is **not a final product** available to be used by citizens.
- It sets the **highest standard in terms of data protection and privacy,** including state-of-the art cryptographic technology called *'Zero-Knowledge-Proof'*.
- The blueprint can be **customised to national contexts** and published as a stand-alone app and/or integrated in European Digital Identity wallets.
- **Open source**, it is open to public scrutiny and market players and third countries can also take it up.



Aim of the Recommendation

PUBLIC



- Make sure that **all EU citizens have access to robust and privacy-preserving age verification by 31 December 2026.**
- The recommendation **sets out clear expectations** to accelerate the adoption of age verification tools within Member States.
- It also defines an **EU-wide governance approach** to enable further availability of such technologies
- **Avoid different non-interoperable approaches** in the Member States

Member States are recommended to:

PUBLIC

- **make use of** the EU age verification blueprint, customise it to national needs and make a national solution available to its citizens by the end of this year.
- **facilitate** the issuance of proof of age attestations based on the EU age verification blueprint.
- **draw up implementation plans** to ensure swift adoption of age verification solutions.
- **work together** and engage with their Digital Services Coordinators, the Commission, researchers and civil society and other Member States in the roll out of their national solutions.
- **ensure compliance with all relevant cybersecurity standards**.

EU Age Verification Scheme

PUBLIC

- Set up in accordance with the **legal framework of eIDAS**.
- Sets **requirements for providers** of proof of age attestations and age verification solutions.
- Defines the overall **governance and trust model** for age verification.
- Results in a **public list** of:
  - **Trusted age verification apps** that meet privacy and security standards equivalent to the EU age verification blueprint and relevant EU legislation.
  - **Trusted providers of proof of age attestations**.



Thank you!