

International Working Group Joint Statement on Age Verification

- 1.1 We (Autorité de régulation de la communication audiovisuelle et numérique (Arcom), Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel (CSA), Cyprus Radiotelevision Authority (CRTA), Direktorenkonferenz der Landesmedienanstalten (DLM) and Ofcom) are pleased to publicly announce our International Working Group on Age Verification.
- 1.2 The Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) requires providers of Video-Sharing Platforms (VSPs) to take appropriate measures to protect minors from videos containing restricted material. *Restricted material* includes content that may impair the physical, mental or moral development of minors. The AVMSD also provides that the most harmful content, such as gratuitous violence and pornography, shall be subject to the strictest measures.
- 1.3 We are committed to protecting children by ensuring that VSPs based in our jurisdictions take these requirements seriously.
- 1.4 We consider this to mean that VSPs providing pornographic content are obliged to implement measures to verify the age of their users, ensuring that they are at least 18 years old. This is also provided for by some of our national laws that we are tasked with implementing.
- 1.5 A key challenge of regulating online platforms is that the internet is, by nature, international. Platforms may be established in one jurisdiction, but accessible from other jurisdictions or even directed to other jurisdictions.
- 1.6 Additionally, many of the measures that platforms may deploy to protect minors are rapidly developing emerging technologies. Different regulatory authorities are still considering how best to approach regulation in this area.
- 1.7 We are committed to meeting the challenges of regulation in the 21st century through proactive collaboration, which we consider a key element to meeting our duties.
- 1.8 We meet regularly to exchange information about each other's legal competencies and our practical experience of taking enforcement measures, as well as to share insights from our research and day to day work and to discuss our assessment of proportionality and the efficacy of age verification technologies. Ultimately, we intend as far as possible to coordinate our approach to regulation and to favour the effective protection of minors across the European Union and the United Kingdom.
- 1.9 Our shared commitment to independent and evidence-based regulation gives us confidence in our ability to make progress in this space while respecting the unique character of each member state and its legal system and safeguarding our citizens' rights to freedom of expression and privacy.