

Title: **European Digital Democracy: Sovereignty, Rights and Online Safety**

Tabled by: Green Party of England and Wales, UK

- consolidated text with CAS accepted amendments - [European Digital Democracy](#)
- spreadsheet amendments **6 December** (morning) - [European Digital Democracy](#)
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Artificial intelligence and digital technologies are transforming our societies. Over 90% of European data is stored on servers controlled by non-EU companies such as Google, Amazon or Microsoft, while five global giants dominate more than 70% of the EU digital market. This dependence threatens Europe's sovereignty, security and democracy. The European Greens call for a digital future based on sovereignty, ethics and fairness, with strong rights-based regulation and effective protections for all.

1. Digital sovereignty and transparency.

Europe's digital infrastructures and social platforms are dominated by Google,

Apple, Meta, Amazon and Microsoft. TikTok, operated from China, handles the data of over 125 million EU citizens, while Chinese AI systems export models based on surveillance and censorship. With 90% of European data processed abroad, this dependence undermines our sovereignty, security and democracy.

To regain control, the EU must act not only through regulation but also through its market power. Public procurement should be used as a lever to support the adoption and scaling of open and interoperable European alternatives to Big Tech. At the same time, social media infrastructures must be opened up to third-party users, preventing monopolies and limiting the addictive potential of algorithms that weaken pluralism. Finally, Big Tech lobbying must be strongly supervised and radically transparent, with an obligation to disclose which political parties are targeting citizens with paid content on their platforms.

2. Human impact.

AI-driven manipulation has direct consequences on people's lives.

Studies show that 96% of deepfakes are pornographic, with over 90% targeting women. Such content, which circulates widely on platforms such as Pornhub, X, or Telegram, fuels harassment, blackmail, and trauma.

Children and young people are particularly exposed: European teenagers spend an average of 3 hours per day on social media (EU Kids Online 2022), where addictive feeds increase risks of scams, explicit and violent content and disinformation. Current recommender systems based on behavioural analysis make the problem even worse. According to a 2023 Amnesty International report, after only a few hours on TikTok, test accounts created as teenagers were quickly shown harmful content – within 3 to 20 minutes, more than half of the recommended videos were about self-harm, depression, or suicide.

Beyond children, vulnerable groups are being deliberately targeted. Meta was fined €390 million in 2023 by the Irish Data Protection Commission for forcing users into behavioural advertising without consent, a clear violation of the GDPR. Later that year, the European Data Protection Board imposed a record €1.2 billion fine for illegal data transfers to the United States.

Investigations have also revealed how Meta and Google secretly partnered to target teenagers (13–17 years old) with ads promoting Instagram on YouTube,

bypassing EU restrictions on advertising to minors. Meanwhile, studies show that 73% of European Facebook users are classified under sensitive categories such as health, religion, or sexual orientation for ad targeting.

These practices show that the threat is not just about who owns the platforms, but about how the system itself operates, exploiting emotions, vulnerabilities, and even mental health for profit.

3. Environmental and global impact.

Digital technologies also have a heavy ecological footprint. Data centres already consume around 3% of EU electricity and could reach 10% by 2030 (EEA). Training large AI models and expanding cloud infrastructures will further increase emissions unless strict standards are enforced. A sovereign digital transition must also be a sustainable one, aligned with the Green Deal and the 1.5°C pathway.

At the same time, the EU must address the global dimension of behavioural analysis technologies. From mass surveillance in authoritarian regimes to political manipulation from social media platforms and exploitative mining of rare materials, Europe's choices have global consequences. Sovereignty cannot mean isolation: it must mean responsibility. A Green Europe must set standards that protect democracy, human rights and the environment worldwide.

Demands

The European Green Party calls for:

1. A European strategy for digital sovereignty and transparency, including open standards, ethical AI, radical lobbying transparency, and strict regulation of dominant platforms.

2. Strong regulation on platform interoperability and by using opportunities to promote opening up the social network infrastructure so users can access third-party applications, such as recommender systems, and allowing third party additional applications.

3. Safe and democratic digital environments must become the norm, by switching

off recommender systems by default, banning behavioural profiling of minors, and enforcing algorithmic transparency to safeguard pluralism.

4. Promote a fair and sustainable digital transition by ensuring interoperability between systems and platforms, preventing technological lock-in and guaranteeing users' freedom of choice through open standards, data portability and security.

5. Ensuring fair taxation and European sovereignty funding, making Big Tech pay what they owe, and guaranteeing that part of these revenues finances the EU digital strategy to strengthen Europe's sovereignty.

Background

- 90% of EU data is stored outside the EU – European Commission, European Data Strategy (2023).
- GAFAM control over 70% of the EU digital market – BEUC, Big Tech Market Dominance Report (2022).
- TikTok processes data from 125 million EU users – European Commission, Digital Services Act Factsheet (2023).
- Chinese AI systems (Baidu ERNIE Bot, iFlytek Spark) operate under state-supervised censorship – Reuters, China expands AI rollout under state supervision (2024).
- 96% of deepfakes are pornographic, with over 90% targeting women – Sensity AI, State of Deepfakes Report (2021).

- Amnesty International (2023) found that within 3–20 minutes on TikTok, teenage test accounts were shown self-harm, depression or suicide-related content – Amnesty International, TikTok risks pushing children towards harmful content (2023).
- Meta fined €390 million by the Irish Data Protection Commission (2023) for behavioural advertising without consent, and €1.2 billion by the European Data Protection Board (2023) for illegal data transfers to the US – AP News / EDPB.
- Meta and Google investigated in 2024 for a secret ad partnership targeting 13–17 year olds on YouTube – Reuters, Brussels probes Google–Meta ad deal (2024).
- 73% of European Facebook users classified under sensitive categories (health, religion, orientation) for ad targeting – University of Carlos III of Madrid, ArXiv (2018).
- Over 75% of European voice-scam victims reported financial losses – McAfee, Voice Cloning Report (2023); Europol, IOCTA (2023).
- EU teenagers spend an average of 3 hours per day on social media – EU Kids Online Survey (2022), LSE.
- Data centres account for 3% of EU electricity use today, projected to reach 10% by 2030 – European Environment Agency, Digitalisation and Environment (2022).
- Interoperability, open standards and data portability identified as key to prevent technological lock-in – European Commission, Interoperable Europe Act (2023).

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