

Dear IMCO Coordinators,

In light of the revelations of Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen, we urge you to organise a hearing with Ms. Haugen.

The Facebook Files, shared by Ms. Haugen and published by the Wall Street Journal, cast light on harms caused by the design of the platform's algorithms and business model to both adult users and children.

It is crucial that EU legislators take the opportunity to draw lessons for the Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act from these revelations in order to protect consumers and digital markets from harmful practices of tech giants.

A Parliament hearing with Ms. Haugen would:

- enable EU legislators to ask questions relevant to the proposed regulations,
- assess how the proposals can best help fix the problems highlighted in the Facebook Files, and
- inform the European public, including over 400 million European users of Facebook, Instagram and other Facebook-owned platforms.

Ms. Haugen's in-depth knowledge of the company Facebook Inc. and its dealing (or the lack thereof) with those harms can provide supporting evidence of the problems raised over the years by civil society, academics, and journalists, including arbitrary content moderation policies, the contribution of engagement algorithms to the dissemination of illegal content and polarisation, as well as the impact of Facebook's design choices on peoples' mental health.

But most importantly, they show that Facebook is well-aware of the harms its products do but chooses not to act because making the algorithms safer would mean, as Ms. Haugen put it, that "people will spend less time on the site, they'll click on less ads, [and Facebook] will make less money."

We also recommend to invite experts, civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders to participate in the hearing as observers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours,

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Amnesty International

EDRi – European Digital Rights

epicenter.works - for digital rights

IT-Pol Denmark

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