

Questions for the Record from Mr. Scott Fitzgerald for Mr. Lorcán Price

“Europe’s Threat to American Speech and Innovation”

September 3, 2025

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1. Over the August recess, I participated in a bipartisan Congressional delegation to Europe to meet with government officials, American companies, and free speech advocates. One focus of our trip was to understand the full scope of European laws like the Digital Services Act, Digital Markets Act and Online Safety Act. Unfortunately, these laws create a serious chilling effect on free expression and threaten the First Amendment rights of Americans and American companies. Would you agree with that these laws set a dangerous precedent for Western countries, by essentially allowing the government to censor speech in the name of safety or regulation?
  - a. **Follow-up:** How could these laws be exploited to allow government bureaucrats to go after politically unpopular groups?
2. During my recent visit to Europe, I spoke with many European leaders and met with representatives from American companies to discuss the impact of Europe’s new age assurance technology requirements. We heard about the challenges that companies face while operating under these conditions, and it is unclear if these regulations are actually preventing any harm. In fact, what we heard is that these requirements make it harder for American companies to compete and innovate. Can you talk about the kinds of risk assessments that were carried out with regard to fraud or identity theft in the UK prior to implementing age assurance technology requirements? Is the EU engaging in any similar risk assessments as it develops its policies?