

The European Parliament will not remove extremism quickly

The European Parliament voted Wednesday to impose a fine of up to 4% of turnover on companies such as Facebook (FB.O), Google (GOOGL.O) and TWTR.N, which have been unable to remove extremist content within an hour of receiving requests from authorities.

The move has attracted more attention since a gunman killed 50 people in two mosques in New Zealand in March, which was broadcast live on Facebook's platform.

The European Parliament approved the proposal by 308 votes, 204 votes against it and 70 abstentions, aiming to combat the abuse of Internet hosting services for "extremist purposes".

"Companies that continue to systematically violate this regulation may face fines equivalent to 4% of global turnover," the European Parliament said.

The European Parliament will finalize legal texts with representatives of the Executive Committee of the European Union and the Governments of EU member States. This process can take months.

Daniel Dalton, the sponsor of the proposal appointed by Parliament, said, "It's obviously a problem that the material of terrorism has been circulating on the Internet for too long without restriction."

"Such messages may be related to real terrorist incidents, and the authorities must act decisively," he said. If we want to protect freedom of speech, any new legislation must be practical and balanced.