

INFORMATION MEETING TAKE BACK YOUR PRIVACY FOUNDATION

March 19, 2025, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

An information meeting of the Take Back Your Privacy Foundation (**TBYP**) was held on March 19, 2025. During the meeting, the chairman of TBYP, Friederike van der Jagt, one of TBYP's lawyers, Robert Verburg, and Silvia Smit of the Dutch Consumers' Association (*Consumentenbond*) gave an update on the lawsuit against TikTok based on the questions you asked before and during the information meeting. This report is a summary of that.

Introduction

Friederike, Silvia and Robert introduced themselves and explained their role in the lawsuit against TikTok.

Questions and Answers

Friederike, supported by Robert and Silvia, then answered the questions you asked. The following questions were addressed.

Q What is the status and have concrete things been accomplished? How long will it be before I get my money?

A In court proceedings, TBYP has been elected exclusive representative for minors. On April 2 and 3, 2025, a hearing will take place at the Amsterdam Court of Appeal. TBYP aims to secure all possibilities for compensation and protect minors who created a TikTok account after November 9, 2022.

TBYP realizes that action against TikTok is taking a long time to yield concrete results. Although TBYP is doing its utmost to force TikTok into compliance and compensation as soon as possible, litigation takes time. That is certainly true of a class action such as this one, but TBYP is convinced that the approach taken has the greatest chance of success. TBYP is pushing for speed wherever possible and will keep you informed of developments in the meantime. When you will receive money is unfortunately impossible to say at this time.

Q Will anything be done in the short term or can we do anything in the short term?

A The lawsuit against TikTok is aimed at obtaining damages from TikTok as soon as possible and forcing TikTok to comply with the rules. In the meantime, you can submit your own request to TikTok to learn more about what data TikTok processes about you and for what purposes. You can do so at <https://www.tiktok.com/legal/report/privacy/webform/nl>. You can also request TikTok to remove your personal data. TikTok must let you know within one month whether it complies with your request and if not, why not. More information about exercising your privacy rights can be found on the website of the [Authority for Personal Data](#) and practical information about a request for inspection can also be found at <https://www.consumentenbond.nl/internet-privacy/een-inzageverzoek-doen-stap-voor-stap>. If you are of the opinion that your request has not been handled properly or TikTok does not comply with

the AVG, you can also always lodge a complaint with the Personal Data Authority or start a procedure in court.

You can also point friends and acquaintances to our action and encourage them to support our action and sign up their children.

- Q** Does a lawsuit like this make sense? Given the high impact of tech companies?
A Yes this case certainly makes a lot of sense. Precisely because of the power of Big Tech companies like TikTok, it makes sense to stand together by taking collective action. That way it is possible to really make a fist. Also, a collective action generates a lot of media attention. Big Tech companies, like TikTok in this case, are sensitive to that.

Actions also contribute to structural changes. For example, the action against TikTok also aims to better regulate the use of TikTok by minors. This is one of the reasons the Dutch Consumers' Association is closely involved in TBYP's action against TikTok: the Dutch Consumers' Association considers a safe online environment for minors very important.

- Q** Will there be a blanket ban on TikTok in the Netherlands like in other countries?
A That is not out of the question. TBYP sees that pressure is mounting on TikTok from politics and public opinion, as it is in other countries. That pressure helps TBYP in this lawsuit, but it is not what TBYP is demanding in this lawsuit. TBYP is demanding that TikTok play by the rules. Banning TikTok leads to complicated discussions, because which social media app or platform will be banned and which will not?

- Q** Do you also work with organizations abroad with cases or actions against TikTok, for example?
A Yes, TBYP is supported in its action against TikTok by BEUC, noyb, Privacy International and Terre des Hommes, among others. Among others, TBYP is discussing with these organizations whether it makes sense to start actions in other countries as well. You can find all the partners supporting our cause on our website. Conducting a lawsuit like this is also partly pioneering for TBYP. That takes time, but TBYP urges you not to drop out, because support for the lawsuit is important.

- Q** How is it that there is so little verification of age, and yet my child is on TikTok?
A TikTok claims that the minimum age is thirteen, but it is easy for children to lie about this. TBYP realizes that parents also have a responsibility, but right now it is far too easy to circumvent the age verification. As a result, children become addicted to TikTok and encounter inappropriate content. TBYP therefore believes that TikTok must take responsibility. The action against TikTok is also aimed at ensuring that TikTok does a better job of keeping minors who are too young from TikTok.

- Q** What data does TikTok process from our children?
A It is not exactly clear to us what data TikTok collects. That, then, is one of TBYP's objections to TikTok. TikTok's privacy policy lists a huge list of data it collects, from messages to usage data (e.g. how users interact with the

platform, interactions with content and duration and frequency of use), but TBYP does not know if this is all of it. It is up to TikTok to clarify that.

Q My child is no longer on TikTok, can I remain enrolled? And do I need to fill in any other information for my registration?

A At this time, you do not need to enter any more information. If you do at a later time, TYBP (through Consumers Union Claims Service) will contact you.

Q If you lose the case, do I have to pay?

A No, if TBYP loses the lawsuit against TikTok, there is no need to pay. An outside funder makes the lawsuit against TikTok possible and pays all costs.

Q Do you have any tips to make using TikTok safer? Can I still use TikTok?

A The case against TikTok is not aimed at completely banning TikTok, and we do not recommend doing so. Given the content available on TikTok, TBYP believes it is important that TikTok be forced to comply with the law so that minors are protected. In the meantime, you can at least turn on "restricted mode" in the TikTok app. Below we have put a number of websites from our support organizations that provide information on how to make minors use social media platforms (including TikTok) as safely as possible:

- <https://www.consumentenbond.nl/veilig-online-opgroeien/je-telefoon-geslacht-maken-voor-je-kind>
- <https://www.consumentenbond.nl/internet-privacy/tiktok-privacyinstellingen>
- <https://www.bureaujeugdmedia.nl/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Paper-BJM-positie-socialemediaverbod-dec-2024-def.pdf>
- <https://www.bureaujeugdmedia.nl/ouders/ouderlijk-toezicht-op-tiktok/>

Q When do you expect the case to be completed?

A TBYP expects the court to rule three months after the April 2 and 3, 2025 hearing. TBYP expects that the substantive hearing of the case can then proceed. Unfortunately, it is impossible to say exactly when the trial will be fully completed.

Q To what extent have children been approached by Chinese companies?

A We don't know.

Q What and how many appeal options does TikTok have once there is an Amsterdam court ruling?

A TikTok can appeal and possibly subsequently appeal to the Dutch Supreme Court after a judgment of the District Court of Amsterdam. In the meantime, however, TikTok will have to comply with a judgment.

Q Will the case be heard in criminal court and also in civil court?

A TBYP's lawsuit against TikTok is a civil suit.

Q Has there been any contact with the other party?

A TBYP's lawyers have been in contact with TikTok's lawyers. Unfortunately, this has not led to a solution, so proceedings are necessary. TYBP's lawyers are

not allowed by their professional rules to say anything about the content of the conversations with TikTok's lawyers.

Q Where is TikTok located?

A TikTok is part of the Chinese company Beijing Bytedance Technology. TikTok also has companies outside China, in Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Singapore and the Cayman Islands, but not in the Netherlands.

Q Is the data stored on American or Chinese servers?

A TBYP does not know that, and that is a good example of the kind of information that TikTok should share as far as TBYP is concerned.

Q Perhaps this question has been asked before, but I would still like to hear from you what the approximate amount of compensation is expected to be. Could you give an indication of this?

A It is not possible for TBYP or its attorneys to say how much damages will be awarded in these proceedings. However, the damages awarded in similar cases can provide an indication. In other class actions, damages ranging from a few hundred euros to well over a thousand euros have been awarded.

Closing

Through the Q&A, you expressed your desire to be kept informed about the case and about a future information session via email or through the websites of TBYP and Consumers Union Claims Service. TBYP will certainly do this. Of course, if you have any questions you can also contact TBYP.