

Meta Could Pull Instagram, Facebook in Europe After Data Ruling | Business Insider

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Meta appears to be heading for another stand-off with the European Union.

The tech giant said in its annual report Thursday that it may choose to pull some of its products in Europe if EU rules are enacted to stop it sending data back to the US.

Ireland's data protection watchdog warned Meta in September 2020 that the legal mechanism it uses to share EU user data with its US servers, called Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs), may not be legal.

Meta said in its annual report that it's expecting a final ruling in the first half of 2022 on whether it can continue to use SCCs.

"If a new transatlantic data transfer framework is not adopted and we are unable to continue to rely on SCCs or rely upon other alternative means of data transfers from Europe to the United States, we will likely be unable to offer a number of our most significant products and services, including Facebook and Instagram, in Europe," Meta wrote in its annual report.

[...]

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