**Sujet Mines-Pont n°1: proposition de corrigé de la question 2**

Although social media started out as online platforms, offering their users room for free speech, they have become accessory to the proliferation of fake news, slander, and cyber bullying. It increasingly forces them to make editorial decisions about what to censor, which raises the question of their status and related responsibilities.

In their defense, social media, as free services, cannot but magnify the state of society: at best, they can turn into a truly democratic forum, at worst, into a free-for-all, but they are not initially accountable for the content they enable.

However, social media are also full-blown companies, and listed ones, to boot: the more content they generate, whatever its nature, the more money they make, by running algorithms which allow them to track their users’ browsing histories and thus to target highly lucrative tailor-made advertisements.

More and more lawmakers therefore think that they should come under common legislation and follow the same ethical guidelines as media outlets, all the more so as they are increasingly used as primary sources of information, including by the latter.

The bottom line is that, however virtual social media may be, they are ubiquitous and thus cannot indefinitely escape local legislation. (198 words)

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