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Facebook Whistle-Blower Brings Campaign to Europe After Disclosures

Beginning a European tour in Britain, the former Facebook manager was questioned by policymakers drafting tougher tech regulations.









Frances Haugen, a former Facebook manager, delivers testimony to Britain's Parliament in a campaign to build stronger oversight of the social media giant. T.J. Kirkpatrick for The New York Times





By Adam Satariano and Mike Isaac

LONDON — Facebook has lurched from controversy to controversy since Mark Zuckerberg started it as a Harvard undergrad in 2004. But the actions of Frances Haugen, a former product manager, have created a backlash and public relations crisis that stand apart.

On Monday, she took her tightly choreographed campaign to build a case for stiffer oversight of the social media giant to Europe. In front of British lawmakers, she painted a portrait of a company vividly aware of its harmful effects on society but unwilling to act because doing so could jeopardize profits and growth.

Hours before she began speaking in London, more than a dozen news organizations published articles based on the Facebook Papers, a cache of documents she took before resigning from the company.

"We need regulation," Ms. Haugen said on Monday. "Until the incentives change, Facebook will not change," she added later.

Facebook on Monday said profits in the latest quarter, which ended in September, had risen 17 percent to \$9.2 billion, reflecting the company's financial strength.

The revelations from Ms. Haugen have generated increased political support for new regulation in the United States and Europe, including some calls for Mr. Zuckerberg to step aside as Facebook's chief executive, putting Facebook on the defensive. The