



## COMMISSION TO PRESENT PROPOSALS ON COMBATting CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ONLINE

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**On 10 October, Commissioner Johansson will attend LIBE to present the new proposal aimed at preventing and combatting child sexual abuse online.**

Children have been spending increasing amounts of time online, often unsupervised, making them more vulnerable to exploitation. The harm resulting from being a victim of this crime is severe, with the COVID-19 crisis exacerbating the problem, and resulting in a surge in online distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). The Internet Watch foundation noted a 64% increase in reports of confirmed child sexual abuse in 2021 compared to the previous year, which was already considered to be at high levels.

Replacing interim legislation that was adopted last year, the proposed new rules would oblige providers to detect, report and remove child sexual abuse material on their services. Providers would also need to assess and mitigate the risk of misuse of their services, while any measures taken must be proportionate to that risk and subject to robust conditions and safeguards.

The proposals also foresees the creation of a new independent EU Centre on Child Sexual Abuse to support online service providers, National law enforcement and Europol, Member States, and also victims.

Javier Zarzalejos (EPP) has been appointed as Parliament's rapporteur on the proposals.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



*I'm delighted to welcome colleagues back after the summer break. As always with LIBE, our work never stops.*

*We have a packed schedule in the coming weeks through to the end of the year. Our scrutiny of the Commission's response to the war in Ukraine will continue with another debate on the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive taking place during our next meeting in October.*

*At the same meeting, Commissioner Johansson will present the new proposals on combatting child sexual abuse online and there will also be votes on a number of important files such as the LIBE report on Racial justice, non-discrimination and anti-racism in the EU; Joint Investigation Teams; and the Police Cooperation Code.*

*There is of course a great deal more happening in our Committee so please check our agendas, and I hope to welcome you to one of our meetings soon!*

**Juan Fernando López Aguilar**



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## AGREEMENT REACHED ON THE RESILIENCE OF CRITICAL ENTITIES

Before the summer, negotiators from the Parliament and the Council, under the French Presidency, reached an agreement on new rules to improve the resilience of critical entities throughout the EU. On 5 September, Parliament's rapporteur on the proposals, Michal Šimečka (RENEW) updated LIBE members on the draft agreement which will help entities better prepare, protect against and respond to incidents and threats such as natural disasters, terrorist threats or health emergencies. The text of the draft agreement is set to be voted in LIBE on 10 October.

## PRESENTATION OF DRAFT REPORT ON EU DRUGS AGENCY

On 5 September, Isabel Santos (S&D), presented her draft report on the Commission's proposal to establish a new EU Drugs agency that would replace and succeed the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. Compared to its predecessor, the future agency would have a stronger mandate and an institutional and governance set-up more in line with the EU Common Approach on decentralised agencies. While sharing the core aims of the Commission's proposal, the rapporteur endeavours to strengthen the health, social and human rights dimensions within the new agency's mandate, as well as enhancing the involvement of civil society in its work.



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## UKRAINE: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEMPORARY PROTECTION DIRECTIVE

As part of its regular scrutiny in Committee on the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive, LIBE members held an exchange with Beate Gminder, Deputy Director in DG HOME in the Commission. Members discussed issues such as the education of children, including kindergarten and pre-school, and also the challenges related to accommodation, the delays linked to access to certain rights within some Member States, and the importance of ensuring support to vulnerable groups and individuals. During the exchange, Members heard that many Ukrainians are returning but, given the circumstances, it is difficult for them to say if their return is temporary or permanent, and some of those returning are leaving their children in the EU, with currently 500,000 children registered in national school systems within the EU.

## COMING UP:

Next LIBE meetings: 10 October, 25 October. Agendas and meeting documents will be available [HERE](#)

- Legal migration package: "Attracting skills and talent to the EU" - Presentation and Exchange of Views, 25 October
- Commissioner Reynders: 2022 edition of the Rule of Law Report - Exchange of Views, 25 October
- Annual Report on Implementation of the UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, 25 October

## CZECH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

Three Ministers from the Government of the Czech Republic attended the LIBE meeting on 5th September as part their Presidency. Vít Rakušan, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, outlined the Presidency's priorities regarding the response to the war in Ukraine, and on legislative proposals such as child sexual abuse, the EU Drugs Agency, the Schengen Borders Code, and the instrumentalisation of migration.

Pavel Blažek, Minister of Justice, cited a number of the Presidency's priorities within the Justice field, such as the protection of the environment through criminal law, combating violence against women and domestic violence and the digitalisation package. The Minister for European Affairs, Mikuláš BEK, noted that rule of law would be a major part of the Presidency's agendas during the General Affairs Council meetings and stated that the Presidency would continue the work started on the Article 7 TEU procedures concerning Hungary and Poland.



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## OLAF REPORT ON FRONTEX



On 12 September in Strasbourg the LIBE and CONT committees held a joint exchange of views following the European Anti-Fraud Office's (OLAF) report on Frontex, which followed allegations of harassment and misconduct within the Agency. Parliament has been given access to a redacted version of the report, which is not publicly available. The in camera meeting provided Members the opportunity to ask representatives from OLAF, the Commission, the Chair of the Frontex Management Board and the Agency's Executive Director ad-interim further questions on the report, such as envisaged follow up actions and the appointment of a new Executive Director at Frontex.

## MISSIONS

**Europol** - On 19 September, this LIBE mission visited Europol to exchange views on the implementation of the new Europol Regulation and hear briefings on a number of core areas of Europol's work, such as on Financial Crime and Cybercrime, as well as its activities in relation to the war in Ukraine.

**Poland and Romania** - A LIBE delegation travelled to Warsaw and Bucharest between 19-22 September, including visiting border checkpoints with Ukraine and reception centres set up for Ukrainian refugees. They also met with government representatives, local authorities as well as civil society organisations, EU agencies and international organisations working with refugees. [Press release](#)

**Ireland** - A delegation of five MEPs visited Dublin from 21-23 September in a fact finding mission on the enforcement of the General Data Protection Regulation. [Press release](#)

## KEEP IN TOUCH

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