REPORT


Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Rapporteur: Birgit Sippel
Symbols for procedures

* Consultation procedure
*** Consent procedure
***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in bold italics in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in bold italics in both columns. New text is indicated in bold italics in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in bold italics. Deletions are indicated using either the symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in bold italics and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.
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(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2020)0568),

– having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 16(2) and 114(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0288/2020),

– having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

– having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 29 October 2020¹,

– having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A9-0258/2020),

1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;

2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;

3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

¹ Not yet published in the Official Journal.
Amendment 1
Proposal for a regulation
Title

Text proposed by the Commission

on a temporary derogation from certain provisions of Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the use of technologies by number-independent interpersonal communications service providers for the processing of personal and other data for the purpose of combating child sexual abuse online

Amendment

on a temporary restriction of certain rights and obligations under Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the use of specific technologies by number-independent interpersonal communications service providers for the processing of personal data for the purpose of combating online child sexual abuse

Amendment 2
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) Directive 2002/58/EC applies to the processing of personal data in connection with the provision of publicly available electronic communication services. The definition of electronic communication service is currently to be found in Article 2, point (c), of Directive 2002/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴. Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵ repeals Directive 2002/21/EC with effect from 21 December 2020. From that date, the definition of electronic communications services will be replaced by a new definition, in Article 2(4) of Directive (EU) 2018/1972, which includes number-independent interpersonal communications services as defined in Article 2(7) of that Directive. Those services, which include, for example, voice over IP, messaging and web-based e-mail services, will therefore fall within the scope of Directive 2002/58/EC, as of 21 December 2020.

Amendment

Amendment 3
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) In accordance with Article 6(1) of the Treaty on European Union, the Union recognises the rights, freedoms and principles set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Article 7 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (“the Charter”) protects the fundamental right of everyone to the respect for his or her private and family life, home and communications, which includes the confidentiality of communications. Article 8 of the Charter provides the right to protection of personal data. Article 24(2) of the Charter provides that, in all actions relating to children, whether taken by public authorities or private institutions, the child’s best interests must be a primary consideration.

Amendment

(3) In accordance with Article 6(1) of the Treaty on European Union, the Union recognises the rights, freedoms and principles set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Article 7 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (“the Charter”) protects the fundamental right of everyone to the respect for his or her private and family life, home and communications, which includes the confidentiality of communications. Article 8 of the Charter contains the right to protection of personal data. Article 3(1) of the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (“UNCRC”) and Article 24(2) of the Charter provide that, in all actions relating to children, whether taken by public authorities or private institutions, the child’s best interests must be a primary consideration. Articles 3(3) of the UNCRC and 24(1) of the Charter furthermore evoke the right of children to protection and care as is necessary for their well-being.

Amendment 4
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children constitute serious violations of human rights, in particular of the rights of children to be protected from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including

Amendment

(4) The protection of children is one of the Union's priorities. Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children constitute serious violations of human and fundamental rights, in particular of the rights of children to be protected from all
sexual abuse, as provided for by the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and by the Charter.
Digitisation has brought about many benefits for society and the economy, but also challenges including an increase of child sexual abuse online. The protection of children online is one of the Union's priorities. On 24 July 2020, the Commission adopted an EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse (“the Strategy”), which aims to provide an effective response, at Union level, to the crime of child sexual abuse.

Digitisation has brought about many benefits for society and the economy, but also challenges including an increase of online child sexual abuse resulting from broader access to potential victims and a sharp rise in the exchange of online child sexual abuse material. Online child sexual abuse material is based on actual abuse in the offline world, where most abuses are committed by persons belonging to the family or being close to it.

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6 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse, 24.7.2020 COM(2020) 607 final.

Amendment 5
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4 a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) Teenagers have the right to discover their sexual identity in a safe and private environment. The rise in reported numbers of online child sexual abuse material is also partially due to the emerging practice of teenagers who, in the development of their sexual identity and experiences, take explicit pictures of videos of themselves and send them to peers, or share such material without a sexual motivation. In addition, the age of sexual consent differs across Member States. If users have reached the age of sexual consent under national law, no
reporting on solicitation of children should not be reported to law enforcement authorities

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Certain providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services, such as webmail and messaging services, are already using specific technologies to detect and report child sexual abuse online to law enforcement authorities and to organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse, or to remove child sexual abuse material, on a voluntary basis. Those organisations refer to national hotlines for reporting child sexual abuse material, as well as to organisations whose purpose is to reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimisation, located both within the Union and in third countries. Collectively, those voluntary activities play a valuable role in enabling the identification and rescue of victims, and reducing the further dissemination of child sexual abuse material, while also contributing to the identification and investigation of offenders, and the prevention of child sexual abuse offences.

Amendment

(5) Certain providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services, such as webmail and messaging services, are already using specific technologies, to detect online child sexual abuse on their services and report it to law enforcement authorities and to organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse on a voluntary basis, by scanning either the content, such as images and text, or the traffic data of communications using, in some instances, historical data. The technology used for these activities could be hashing technology for images and videos and classifiers and artificial intelligence for analysing text or traffic data. The providers refer to national hotlines for reporting online child sexual abuse material, as well as to organisations whose purpose is to identify children and reduce child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, and prevent child victimisation, located both within the Union and in third countries, in particular the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in the United States. Such organisations usually do not fall within the scope of Regulation (EU) 2016/679. Collectively, such voluntary activities play a valuable role in enabling the identification and rescue of victims, whose fundamental rights to human dignity and to physical and mental integrity are severely violated, and reducing the further dissemination of online child sexual abuse material, while
also contributing to the identification and investigation of offenders, and the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse offences.

Amendment 7
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5 a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5a) Notwithstanding their legitimate objective, these activities constitute an interference with the fundamental rights to respect for private and family life and protection of personal data of the individuals concerned, namely all users, potential offenders and victims. Any limitation to the fundamental right to respect for private and family life, including the confidentiality of communications, cannot be justified merely on the ground that certain technologies were previously deployed when the services concerned did not, from a legal perspective, constitute electronic communications services. Such interference is only possible under certain conditions. It needs to be provided for by law, respect the essence of the rights to private and family life and to the protection of personal data and, in compliance with the principle of proportionality, be necessary and genuinely meet objectives of general interest recognised by the Union or the need to protect the rights and freedoms of others as enshrined in Article 52 (1) of the Charter. Where such measures permanently involve a general and indiscriminate monitoring and analysis of communications of all users, they violate the right to confidentiality of communications, as the Court of Justice has ruled in the joined Cases C-511/18, C-512/18 and C-520/18 - La Quadrature et al.¹a and in joined cases C-293/12 –
Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) **Until 20 December 2020, the** processing of personal data by providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services by means of voluntary measures for the purpose of detecting and reporting child sexual abuse *online* and removing child sexual abuse material is governed by Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Amendment

(6) **The processing of personal data by providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services by means of voluntary measures for the purpose of detecting and reporting online child sexual abuse and removing online child sexual abuse material is governed by Regulation (EU) 2016/679. Directive (EU) 2018/1972 does not have a direct effect on providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services.**

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) Directive 2002/58/EC does not contain any specific provisions concerning the processing of personal data in connection with the provision of electronic communication services for the purpose of detecting and reporting child sexual abuse *online* and removing child sexual abuse material. However, pursuant to Article 15(1) of Directive 2002/58/EC, Member States may adopt legislative measures to restrict the scope of the rights and obligations provided for in, inter alia, Articles 5 and 6 of that Directive, which

Amendment

(7) Directive 2002/58/EC does not contain any specific provisions concerning the processing of personal data for the purpose of detecting and reporting online child sexual abuse and removing child sexual abuse material. However, pursuant to Article 15(1) of Directive 2002/58/EC, Member States may adopt legislative measures to restrict the scope of the rights and obligations provided for in, inter alia, Articles 5 and 6 of that Directive, which
concern confidentiality of communications and traffic data, for the purpose of prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution of criminal offences linked to child sexual abuse. In the absence of such legislative measures, and pending the adoption of a new longer-term legal framework to tackle child sexual abuse effectively at Union level as announced in the Strategy, there would be no legal basis for providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services to continue to detect and report child sexual abuse online and remove child sexual abuse material in their services beyond 21 December 2020.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 7a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7a) The processing of images and videos for the purposes of this Regulation should always be considered to constitute processing of special categories of personal data, under Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 because images and videos are biometric data that are processed through a specific technical means allowing the unique identification.
or authentication of a natural person.

Amendment 11
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) This Regulation therefore provides for a temporary derogation from Article 5(1) and Article 6 of Directive 2002/58/EC, which protect the confidentiality of communications and traffic data. Since Directive 2002/58/EC was adopted on the basis of Article 114 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, it is appropriate to adopt this Regulation on the same legal basis. Moreover, not all Member States have adopted legislative measures at national level to restrict the scope of the rights and obligations provided for in those provisions in accordance with Article 15(1) of Directive 2002/58/EC, and the adoption of such measures involves a significant risk of fragmentation likely to negatively affect the internal market.

Amendment

(8) This Regulation therefore provides for a temporary restriction of Articles 5(1) and Article 6 (1) of Directive 2002/58/EC, which protect the confidentiality of communications and traffic data. Voluntary measures applied by providers offering number-independent interpersonal communications services in the Union for the sole purpose of detecting and reporting online child sexual abuse and detecting, removing and reporting online child sexual abuse material therefore become subject to the safeguards and conditions set out in this Regulation as well as in Regulation (EU) 2016/679. Since Directive 2002/58/EC was adopted on the basis of Article 114 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, it is appropriate to adopt this Regulation on the same legal basis. Where Member States adopt legislative measures at national level to restrict the scope of the rights and obligations provided for in those provisions in accordance with Article 15(1) of Directive 2002/58/EC they should respect Regulation (EU) 2016/679, in particular Article 23 thereof.

Amendment 12
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) Given that electronic communications involving natural persons

Amendment

(9) Given that data related to electronic communications involving
will normally qualify as personal data, this Regulation should also be based on Article 16 of the Treaty, which provides a specific legal basis for the adoption of rules relating to the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by Union institutions and by the Member States when carrying out activities which fall within the scope of Union law, and rules relating to the free movement of such data.

natural persons will always qualify as personal data, this Regulation should also be based on Article 16 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which provides a specific legal basis for the adoption of rules relating to the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by Union institutions and by the Member States when carrying out activities which fall within the scope of Union law, and rules relating to the free movement of such data.

Amendment 13
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) To the extent that processing of personal data in connection with the provision of electronic communications services by number-independent interpersonal communications services for the sole purpose of detecting and reporting child sexual abuse online and removing child sexual abuse material falls within the scope of the derogation provided for by this Regulation, Regulation (EU) 2016/679 applies to such processing, including the requirement to carry out an assessment of the impact of the envisaged processing operations where appropriate pursuant to Article 35 of that Regulation prior to the deployment of the technologies concerned.

Amendment

(10) To the extent that processing of personal data in connection with the provision of electronic communications services by number-independent interpersonal communications services for the sole purpose of detecting and reporting online child sexual abuse and removing online child sexual abuse material falls within the scope of the restriction provided for by this Regulation, Regulation (EU) 2016/679 applies to such processing, including but not limited to, its provisions on principles relating to the processing of personal data (Article 5), lawfulness of processing (Article 6), processing of special categories of personal data (Article 9), restrictions (Article 23), the security of processing (Article 32), transfers of personal data to third countries or international organisations (Chapter V), independent supervisory authorities (Chapter VI), cooperation and consistency (Chapter VII) and remedies, liability and penalties (Chapter VIII), as well as the requirement to carry out an assessment of the impact of the envisaged processing operations pursuant to Article 35 of that Regulation prior to the
Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) Since the sole objective of this Regulation is to enable the continuation of certain existing activities aimed at combating child sexual abuse online, the derogation provided for by this Regulation should be limited to well-established technology that is regularly used by number-independent interpersonal communications services for the purpose of detecting and reporting child sexual abuse material before the entry into force of this Regulation. The reference to the technology includes where necessary any human review directly relating to the use of the technology and overseeing it. The use of the technology in question should therefore be common in the industry, without it necessarily being required that all providers use the technology and without precluding the further evolution of the technology in a privacy-friendly manner. In this respect, it should be immaterial whether or not a particular provider that seeks to rely on this derogation itself already uses such technology on the date of entry into force of this Regulation. The types of technologies deployed should be the least privacy-intrusive in accordance with the deployment of any technologies concerned and the requirement pursuant to Article 36 thereof to consult the supervisory authority concerned prior to processing, or in the case of technologies analysing traffic or content data for the purpose of identifying possible instances of solicitation of children, a prior authorisation from the supervisory authorities.

Amendment

(11) Since this Regulation aims to enable the continuation of certain existing activities aimed at detecting, reporting and removing online child sexual abuse material and detecting and reporting online child sexual abuse that comply with Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the restriction provided for by this Regulation should be limited to technology that has been subject to prior consultation in accordance with Article 36 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 or, where required by this Regulation, prior authorisation by a national supervisory authority, technology that is regularly used by number-independent interpersonal communications services for the sole purpose of detecting and reporting online child sexual abuse and removing online child sexual abuse material. The reference to the technology includes any human review directly relating to the use of the technology and overseeing its functioning with a view to avoid unnecessary and disproportionate interference with fundamental rights. The use of the technology in question should therefore be common in the industry, without it necessarily being required that all providers use the technology and without
state of the art in the industry and should not include systematic filtering and scanning of communications containing text but only look into specific communications in case of concrete elements of suspicion of child sexual abuse.

precluding the further evolution of the technology in a privacy-friendly manner. In this respect, it should be irrelevant whether or not a particular provider that seeks to rely on the restriction provided for by this Regulation itself already uses such technology on the date of entry into force of this Regulation. The types of technologies deployed should be the least privacy-intrusive in accordance with the state of the art in the industry. The types of technologies deployed should be the least privacy-intrusive in accordance with the state of the art in the industry and should not be used for systematic filtering and scanning of communications containing text but only to look into specific communications in case of concrete elements of suspicion of child sexual abuse. To the extent that they are used to scan communications containing text, technologies should not be able to understand the substance of the content but should solely detect patterns, which point to possible online child sexual abuse.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) The personal and other data used when carrying out the activities covered by the derogation set out in this Regulation, as well as the period during which the data is subsequently retained in case of positive results, should be minimised so as to ensure that the derogation remains limited to what is strictly necessary.

Amendment

(13) The personal data used when carrying out the activities covered by the restriction provided for by this Regulation, as well as the period during which the data and any result of the processing of this data are subsequently retained in case of positive results, should be minimised to what is strictly necessary so as to ensure that the interference with the confidentiality of communications remains as limited as possible.
Amendment 16
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) In order to ensure transparency and accountability in respect of the activities undertaken pursuant to the derogation, the providers should publish reports on an annual basis on the processing falling within the scope of this Regulation, including on the type and volumes of data processed, number of cases identified, measures applied to select and improve key indicators, the numbers and ratios of errors (false positives) of the different technologies deployed, measures applied to limit the error rate and the error rate achieved, the retention policy and the data protection safeguards applied.

Amendment

(14) In order to ensure transparency and accountability in respect of the activities undertaken pursuant to the restriction, provided for by this Regulation, interpersonal communications service providers should publish and submit reports by ... [six months after the entry into force of this Regulation], and on an annual basis thereafter, on the processing falling within the scope of this Regulation, including on the type and volumes of data processed, the ground relied on for transfers of personal data pursuant to Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the ground relied on for transfers of personal data outside the Union pursuant to Chapter V of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, where applicable, the number of cases identified, the number of cases in which a user has lodged a complaint with the internal redress mechanism or with a judicial authority and the outcome of those proceedings, measures applied to select and improve key indicators, the numbers and ratios of errors (false positives) of the different technologies deployed, measures applied to limit the error rate and the error rate achieved, the retention policy and the data protection safeguards applied pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679. Providers should also submit their reports to the supervisory authorities in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679.
Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14a) In order to support the responsible supervisory authorities in their task, the Commission should request the European Data Protection Board to issue guidelines on compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of processing falling within the scope of the restriction laid down in this Regulation. Those guidelines should in particular assist the supervisory authorities in providing advice in the framework of the prior consultation procedure set out in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, which is to be carried out when assessing whether an established or new technology to be used is state-of-the-art, the least privacy-intrusive and operating on an adequate legal basis under Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15) This Regulation should enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union, in order to ensure that it is applicable as from 21 December 2020. deleted
Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) This Regulation restricts the right to protection of the confidentiality of communications and derogates from the decision taken in Directive (EU) 2018/1972 to subject number-independent interpersonal communications services to the same rules as all other electronic communications services as regards privacy. The period of application of this Regulation should, therefore, be limited until 31 December 2025, that is to say for a time period reasonably required for the adoption of a new long-term legal framework, with more elaborate safeguards. In case the long-term legislation is adopted and will enter into force before that date, that legislation should repeal this Regulation.

Amendment

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 17a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(17a) The supervisory authorities responsible for monitoring the application of this Regulation should be the same as the independent supervisory authorities designated pursuant to Chapter VI of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.
Amendment 21
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 17 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(17b) End-to-end encryption is an important tool to guarantee secure and confidential communications of users, including those of children. Any weakening of encryption could potentially be abused by malicious third parties. Nothing in this Regulation should therefore be interpreted as prohibiting or weakening end-to-end encryption.

Amendment 22
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 17 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(17c) The right to respect for private and family life, including the confidentiality of communications, is a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 7 of the Charter. It is thus also a prerequisite for secure communications between victims of child sexual abuse and a trusted adult or organisations active in the fight against child sexual abuse as well as in communications between victims and their lawyers.

Amendment 23
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 17 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(17d) All communications between an accused or convicted person and his or her lawyer should be protected, in order to guarantee the fundamental rights to an
effective remedy and to a fair trial pursuant to Article 47 of the Charter as well as the right to the presumption of innocence and the right of defence pursuant to Article 48 thereof.

Amendment 24
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) The objective of this Regulation is to create a temporary derogation from certain provisions of Directive 2002/58/EC without creating fragmentation in the Internal Market. In addition, national legislation would most probably not be adopted in time in all Member States. As this objective cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can rather be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives. It introduces a temporary and strictly limited derogation from the applicability of Articles 5 (1) and 6 of Directive 2002/58/EC, with a series of safeguards to ensure that it does not go beyond what is necessary for the achievement of the set objectives.

Amendment

(18) The objective of this Regulation is to create a temporary restriction of specific provisions of Directive 2002/58/EC without creating fragmentation in the Internal Market. In addition, national legislation would most probably not be adopted in time in all Member States. As this objective cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can rather be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives. It introduces a temporary and strictly limited restriction of the applicability of Articles 5 (1) and 6 (1) of Directive 2002/58/EC, with a series of safeguards to ensure that it does not go beyond what is necessary for the achievement of the set objectives.

Amendment 25
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 19

Text proposed by the Commission

(19) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance

Amendment

19) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with

**Amendment 26**

Proposal for a regulation

**Article 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

**Article 1**

Subject matter

This Regulation lays down temporary and strictly limited rules derogating from certain obligations laid down in Directive 2002/58/EC, with the sole objective of enabling providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services to continue the use of technologies for the processing of personal and other data to the extent necessary to detect and report child sexual abuse online and remove child sexual abuse material on their services.

*Amendment*

**Article 1**

Subject matter

This Regulation lays down temporary and strictly limited rules restricting certain rights and obligations laid down in Directive 2002/58/EC, with the sole objective of enabling providers of certain number-independent interpersonal communications services, to continue, while fully respecting the rights and obligations laid down in Regulation (EU)2016/679, using specific technologies, namely the use of a unique non-reconvertible digital signature (‘hash’) and the use of technologies analysing traffic or content data for the sole purpose of processing personal data to the extent strictly necessary to detect and report online child sexual abuse and remove online child sexual abuse material on their services.

**Amendment 27**

Proposal for a regulation

**Article 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

**Article 2**

Definitions

For the purpose of this Regulation, the
following definitions apply:

(1) ‘number-independent interpersonal communications service’ means a service as defined in Article 2(7) of Directive (EU) 2018/1972;

(2) ‘child sexual abuse online’ means:

(a) material constituting child pornography as defined in Article 2, point (c), of Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;

(b) solicitation of children for the purpose of engaging in sexual activities with a child or of producing child pornography by any of the following:

(i) luring the child by means of offering gifts or other advantages;

(ii) threatening the child with a negative consequence likely to have a significant impact on the child;

(iii) presenting the child with pornographic materials or making them available to the child.

(c) ‘pornographic performance’ as defined in Article 2(e) of Directive 2011/93/EU.

following definitions apply:

(1) ‘number-independent interpersonal communications service’ means a number-independent interpersonal communications service as defined in Article 2(7) of Directive (EU) 2018/1972;

(2) ‘online child sexual abuse material’ means:

(a) ‘child pornography‘ as defined in Article 2, point (c), of Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;

(b) solicitation of children for the purpose of engaging in sexual activities with a child or of producing child pornography by any of the following:

(i) luring the child by means of offering gifts or other advantages;

(ii) threatening the child with a negative consequence likely to have a significant impact on the child;

(iii) presenting the child with pornographic materials or making them available to the child.

(c) ‘pornographic performance’ as defined in Article 2, point (e), of Directive 2011/93/EU;

(2a) ‘solicitation of children’ means any intentional conduct constituting a criminal offense under Article 6 of Directive 2011/93/EC;

(2b) ‘online child sexual abuse’ means ‘online child sexual abuse material’ and ‘solicitation of children’;

(2c) ‘positive hit of online child sexual abuse material’ means a match resulting from a comparison between an image or a video and a ‘hash’ from a data base containing verified online child sexual abuse material and maintained by an organisation recognised by the Commission pursuant to Article 3f of this Regulation.
Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3

**Text proposed by the Commission**

Article 3

Scope of the derogation

The specific obligations set out in Article 5(1) and Article 6 of Directive 2002/58/EC shall **not apply to** the processing of personal and other data in connection with the provision of number-independent interpersonal communications services strictly necessary for the use of technology for the sole purpose of removing child sexual abuse material and detecting or reporting child sexual abuse **online** to law enforcement authorities and to organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse, provided that:

(a) the processing is proportionate and limited to **well-established** technologies regularly used by providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services for that purpose **before the entry into force of this Regulation**, and that are in accordance with the **state of the art used in the industry and are the least privacy-intrusive**;

**Amendment**

Article 3

Scope of the restriction

1. The specific **rights and obligations** set out in Article 5(1) and Article 6(1) of Directive 2002/58/EC shall be restricted with regard to the confidentiality of communications involving the processing of personal data in connection with the provision of number-independent interpersonal communications services **provided that such restriction is** strictly necessary for the use of specific technology for the sole purpose of detecting **and removing** online child sexual abuse and reporting it to law enforcement authorities and to organisations acting in the public interest and for detecting online child sexual abuse and reporting it to law enforcement authorities provided that:

(a) the processing is proportionate and limited to technologies regularly used by providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services for that sole purpose **and provided that the technologies fulfil all of the following conditions**:

(i) they are in accordance with the state-of-the-art used in the industry and are the least privacy-intrusive, including with regard to the principle of data protection by design and by default as laid down in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, and, to the extent that they are used to scan communications containing text, they are not able to understand the substance of the content but solely detect patterns, which point to possible online child sexual abuse;
(ii) a prior data protection impact assessment pursuant to Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and a prior consultation procedure pursuant to Article 36 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 have been conducted in accordance with Article 3a of this Regulation and have indicated that the processing would not result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of natural persons or that measures have been taken by the controller to mitigate the risk;

(iii) in the case of technologies analysing traffic or content data for the purpose of identifying possible instances of solicitation of children, a prior authorisation has been given from the supervisory authorities, following the prior data protection impact assessment and the consultation of the supervisory authority;

(iv) the processing is based on Article 6(1) of Regulation (EU)2016/679, provided that, without prejudice to Regulation (EU) 2016/ 679, all the conditions laid down in this Regulation have been complied with;

(v) the categories of personal data to be processed for each processing operation are the content data, related traffic data as well as other personal data generated through such processing;

(vi) there are internal procedures within the number-independent interpersonal communications service to prevent abuse, unauthorised access or transfers;

(vii) the identity and categories of the controller or controllers are clearly specified;

(viii) the provider of the number-independent interpersonal communications services ensures human oversight and intervention for the processing of personal data, and no ‘positive hit of online child sexual abuse
material’ is sent to law enforcement authorities or organisations as referred to in Article 3f of this Regulation without prior human confirmation;

(ix) the provider of the number-independent interpersonal communications services ensures human oversight and intervention for the processing of personal data, and no reasoned suspicion, based on concrete elements, of online child sexual abuse, is sent to law enforcement authorities without prior human confirmation;

(x) appropriate procedures and redress mechanisms are in place to ensure that individuals can lodge complaints with the provider of a number-independent interpersonal communications service within a reasonable timeframe for the user to present their views in accordance with Article 3c;

(xi) without prejudice to the information provided for in Articles 13 and 14 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the data subjects are informed about the restriction of the confidentiality of their communications for the sole purpose of removing child sexual abuse material and detecting or reporting child sexual abuse material, including the possibility that personal data is shared with law enforcement authorities and organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse;

(xii) in the event of a ‘positive hit of online child sexual abuse material’ or a reasoned suspicion, based on concrete elements, of online child sexual abuse, the data subjects are given the following information, without prejudice to the information provided for in Articles 13 and 14 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, unless to do so would be prejudicial to an ongoing investigation, in which case the provision of that information may be delayed to the extent strictly necessary and the data subjects shall be informed
without delay after the investigation is closed:

(a) the competent law enforcement authorities and organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse with whom their personal data have been shared;

(b) the avenues for redress with the provider of number-independent interpersonal communications services; and

(c) the possibility of lodging a complaint with the competent supervisory authority and of a judicial remedy, and the identity of those authorities;

(xiii) there is no interference with any communication protected by professional secrecy, such as between doctors and their patients, journalists and their sources or lawyers and their clients;

(xiv) any transfer of personal data to third countries or international organisations complies with Chapter V of Regulation (EU) 2016/679;

(b) the technology used is in itself sufficiently reliable in that it limits the rate of errors regarding the detection of content representing child sexual abuse, and where such occasional errors occur, their consequences are rectified without delay;

(b) the technology used to identify online child sexual abuse material is in itself sufficiently reliable in that it limits the rate of errors where content is wrongly identified as content representing online child sexual abuse (“false positives”) to at most 1 in 50 billion regarding the detection of content representing child sexual abuse, and where such occasional errors occur, their consequences are rectified without delay;

(ba) the technology used to identify solicitation of children is in itself sufficiently reliable in that it limits the maximum extent possible the rate of errors regarding the detection of content representing child sexual abuse, and where such occasional errors occur, their consequences are rectified without delay;

(c) the technology used to detect patterns of possible solicitation of children
of relevant key indicators, such as keywords and objectively identified risk factors such as age difference, without prejudice to the right to human review;

(d) the processing is limited to what is strictly necessary for the purpose of detection and reporting of child sexual abuse online and removal of child sexual abuse material and, unless child sexual abuse online has been detected and confirmed as such, is erased immediately;

(d) the processing allowed by the restriction provided for in this Regulation is limited to what is strictly necessary for the sole purpose of detection and reporting of online child sexual abuse and removal of online child sexual abuse material;

(da) where no online child sexual abuse has been detected and confirmed as such, all content data, related traffic data and any result of processing of these data is erased immediately after the processing;

(db) where child sexual abuse has been detected and confirmed as such, the strictly relevant content data, the related traffic data and personal data generated through such processing, are retained solely for the following purposes and only for the time period strictly necessary, but in any case no longer than three months, after which they are deleted immediately and permanently:

- in order to report and transfer them, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679, to the competent law enforcement authorities without undue delay;

- in order to report and transfer them, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679, to organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse operating a database pursuant to Article 3f of this Regulation;

- in order to block the account of the user concerned or suspend a service offered to him or her;

- regarding personal data reliably identified as online child sexual abuse material online, in order to create a ‘hash’;
(e) the provider annually publishes a report on its related processing, including on the type and volumes of data processed, number of cases identified, measures applied to select and improve key indicators, numbers and ratios of errors (false positives) of the different technologies deployed, measures applied to limit the error rate and the error rate achieved, the retention policy and the data protection safeguards applied.

As regards point (d), where child sexual abuse online has been detected and confirmed as such, the relevant data may be retained solely for the following purposes and only for the time period necessary:

- for its reporting and to respond to proportionate requests by law enforcement and other relevant public authorities;
- for the blocking of the concerned user’s account;
- in relation to data reliably identified as child pornography, for the creation of a unique, non-reconvertible
digital signature (‘hash’).

(ea) every case of a reasoned and verified suspicion of online child sexual abuse is immediately reported to the competent national law enforcement authorities.

1a. This Regulation shall not apply to the scanning of audio communications.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 3 a

Obligation for a prior data protection impact assessment and a prior consultation of the supervisory authorities

1. Providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services shall, in order to rely on the restriction provided for by this Regulation, conduct a prior data protection impact assessment pursuant to Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and a prior consultation procedure pursuant to Article 36 thereof.

2. The Member States shall ensure that the supervisory authorities have sufficient resources for prior data protection impact assessments and prior consultation procedures, in line with the requirements laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

This Article shall not apply where a data protection impact assessment and a prior consultation of the supervisory authorities have been conducted prior to … [the entry into force of this Regulation] and have indicated that the processing would not result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of natural persons or that measures have been taken by the controller to mitigate the risk.
Amendment 30
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 b (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**Article 3b**

*European Data Protection Board guidelines*

*By ... [one month after the date of entry into force of this Regulation], and pursuant to Article 70 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the Commission shall request the European Data Protection Board to issue guidelines for the purpose of assisting the supervisory authorities responsible in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 to assess whether the processing falling within the scope of this Regulation, for existing as well as future technologies, used for the sole purpose of combatting online child sexual abuse complies with Regulation (EU) 2016/679.***

Amendment 31
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 c (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**Article 3 c**

*Complaint mechanism*

*Providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services using technologies for the processing of personal data to detect and report online child sexual abuse and detect and report and remove online child sexual abuse material shall establish an effective and accessible mechanism allowing users whose content has been removed or...***
reported to law enforcement authorities or an organisation acting in the public interest against online child sexual abuse to submit a complaint against the action of the provider concerned, where the material reported or removed does not constitute online child sexual abuse in accordance with this Regulation.

Amendment 32
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 3d

Effective remedies
Users who have been adversely affected by the use of specific technologies for the processing of personal data to detect and report online child sexual abuse and remove online child sexual abuse material from the services of number-independent interpersonal communications services shall have the right to an effective remedy where the material reported or removed does not constitute online child sexual abuse in accordance with this Regulation. Member States shall put in place effective procedures for the exercise of that right, including for the following cases:

(i) the users’ content or identity have been reported to an organisation acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse or to law enforcement authorities;

(ii) the users’ content has been removed or their account has been blocked or a service offered to them has been suspended.
Amendment 33
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 3e

Supervisory authorities
The supervisory authorities responsible for monitoring the application of this Regulation shall be the same as the independent supervisory authorities designated pursuant to Chapter VI of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Amendment 34
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 3f

Public register of organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse

By ... [one month of the date of entry into force of this Regulation], the Commission shall establish a public register of organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse with which providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services can share personal data under this Regulation and without prejudice to Chapter V of Regulation (EU) 2016/679. That public register shall be established based on transparent and objective criteria and kept up to date.
Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 g (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 3g

Statistics

1. By ..., [six months after entry into force of Regulation], and on annual basis thereafter, the Member States shall make publicly available and submit reports to the Commission with statistics on all of the following elements:

(a) the total number of reports of detected online child sexual abuse that have been provided by number-independent interpersonal communications services and organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse to the competent national law enforcement authorities, differentiating between the absolute number of cases and those cases reported several times and the type of provider of number-independent interpersonal communications services where the online child sexual abuse was detected;

(b) the number of children identified through actions pursuant to Article 3 of this Regulation, differentiated according to gender;

(c) the number of perpetrators prosecuted, following identification through technology;

(d) the number of perpetrators convicted;

(e) the number of false positives reported;

(f) the technologies used to detect online child sexual abuse and their percentage in contributing to the detection of online child sexual abuse; and
(g) the providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services offering services in their territory using technology to detect, remove or report online child sexual abuse.

2. The Commission shall aggregate the statistics referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and shall take them into account when reviewing this Regulation, pursuant to Article 3h of this Regulation.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 h (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 3h

Review

1. On the basis of the reports provided pursuant to Article 3(1), point(e), and the statistics provided pursuant to Article 3g, the Commission shall, by ...[two years after entry into force of Regulation], and annually thereafter, conduct a review of this Regulation and submit and present a report to the European Parliament and to Council.

2. In conducting its review, the Commission shall pay special attention to:

(a) all conditions for the processing of personal data enumerated under Article 3 3, point (a);

(b) the proportionality of the restriction provided for by this Regulation, including an assessment of the statistics submitted by the Member States under Article 3g;

(c) developments in technological progress regarding such activities, and the extent to which such developments improve accuracy and reduce false
Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 i (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 3i

Terms and conditions

Without prejudice to Article 3(a), points (xi) and (xii), providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services that use technologies falling within the scope of this Regulation shall include in their terms and conditions clear and comprehensive information on the functioning of such measures and the impact on users’ confidentiality of communications.

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4

Text proposed by the Commission

Entry into force and application

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

It shall apply from 21 December 2020 until 31 December 2025.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Amendment

Article 4

Entry into force and application

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

It shall apply from 21 December 2020 until 31 December 2022.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Sexual abuse of children (CSA) constitutes a serious violation of human and fundamental rights. It can thus justify the restriction of the fundamental rights to confidentiality of communications and protection of personal data, provided that such a restriction constitutes a necessary and proportionate measure in a democratic society and that it respects the essence of the fundamental rights and freedoms.

To detect, report and remove child sexual abuse material (CSAM), certain providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services are currently scanning communication such as messages (content and/or meta data, in some instances, historical data) on a voluntary basis.

The proposed Regulation seeks to restrict the right to protection of the confidentiality to allow for these voluntary activities to continue after 21 December 2020, date of entry into force of the European Electronic Communications Code which would bring these providers into the scope of Directive 2002/58/EC (ePrivacy) and thus oblige them to ask users for consent before scanning their communication.

The rapporteur’s and the European Parliament’s work on this proposed Regulation has been complicated to a great deal by the time pressure resulting from the fact that this proposal was only presented on 10 September 2020 by the Commission (although the European Electronic Communication Code was already adopted in December 2018). Furthermore, the Commission did not respect its obligation under the Better Law Making agreement to accompany this proposal by an Impact Assessment and does not wish to take a stance on whether current voluntary practices to detect and report CSAM are in fact legal under EU law. Crucial information regarding the level of interference with the fundamental rights to the protection of confidentiality of communications and the protection of personal data is therefore missing at the time of preparing this draft report.

Main elements of this draft report include:

a) General considerations

- End-to-end encryption is an important tool to guarantee secure and confidential communications of users, including that of children and victims. Nothing in this Regulation should be interpreted as prohibiting or weakening end-to-end encryption.

- The proposed Regulation does not provide in itself for a legal basis for the scanning of communication by providers. Instead, it provides for a restriction of certain rights and obligations laid down in Directive 2002/58/EC, and lays down additional safeguards to be respected by the providers if they wish to rely on this Regulation.

b) Clarifications on the scope of the measure

- This Regulation should only apply to videos or images exchanged over messaging or email services. It should not apply to the scanning of text or audio communication, which remains fully subject to the provisions of the e Privacy Directive.

- In view of its temporary nature, the material scope of the Regulation should be limited to the
established definition of so called ‘child pornography’ as defined in Directive 2011/93/EU and ‘pornographic performance’ as defined in the same directive.

- The technology does not have to be in use before the entry into force of this Regulation, as long as it fulfils all the conditions spelled out in this Regulation, in order for the legislation to be future-prove.

c) Additional safeguards

- Providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services that wish to reply on this Regulation have to fulfil certain conditions. These include:

  - a mandatory prior data protection impact assessment pursuant and a mandatory consultation procedure, prior to the use of the technology as required by Articles 35 and 36 of the GDPR;
  
  - using Article 6 (1) d) or e) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 as a legal basis;
  
  - human overview and intervention is ensured for any processing of personal data, and no positive result is sent to law enforcement authorities or organisations acting in the public interest without prior human review;
  
  - appropriate procedures and redress mechanisms are in place:

    - no interference with any communication protected by professional secrecy;
    
    - adequate legal basis for transfers outside the EU, in line with Chapter V of the GDPR.

  - effective remedies provided by the Member States at national level.

All these conditions need to be met in order to ensure the proportionality of the restriction to the fundamental rights that this activity implies.

d) Public register of organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse

The Commission should establish a public register of organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse with which providers can share personal data.

e) Enhanced transparency

The providers should publish a first report six months after the entry into force of this Regulation, and thereafter on an annual basis.

f) Time limitation of the proposed Regulation

The period of application of this Regulation should be limited until 31 December 2022. In case the future long-term legislation is adopted and will enter into force before that date, that legislation should repeal this Regulation.

**Greens/EFA minority position**
The proposal does not protect children but exposes children and adults alike to major risks (such as AI algorithms falsely flagging legal intimate depictions and conversations of children and adults relating to their health and sexual life) and violates the fundamental rights of millions of children and adults.

Generally and indiscriminately analyzing the content of all private correspondence of unsuspected citizens by private companies, as if the post office opened all letters in search of illegal content, is not only unacceptable with regard to the right to privacy, including of children and victims themselves, but also specifically threatens human rights of minorities, LGBTQI people, political dissidents, journalists etc.

According to the Court of Justice a permanent automated analysis of communications is proportionate only if limited to suspects (case C-511/18), which the proposal is not.

Despite the proposed regulation those practices will continue to violate the GDPR (no legal basis for private actors to detect crime, lack of proportionality).

As demonstrated by the rising number of reports by companies using this method of general monitoring, such mass surveillance does not contain the circulation of illegal material but will only push it further underground, making it more difficult to prosecute.

**Minority Position of Cornelia Ernst (GUE/NGL)**

The scanning of electronic communications that this regulation allows, in particular the scanning of text messages, constitutes a grave violation of the rights enshrined in Article 7 and 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. It amounts to blanket surveillance that is never justified, not even to fight the most horrendous crime.
2.12.2020

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs


Rapporteur for opinion: Christine Anderson

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The issue of online child sex abuse is so grave and it entails such terrible consequences in all aspects of the life of the victim that by no means it can be taken lightly. In the same breath, the explosion of Internet use, its ever increasing numerous tools and applications have transformed it into a haven for consumers in search of porn content, of whom, according to data, the youngest ones range from the age of 12 to 17. The addiction to porn material has grave effects on the human mind, as pornography presents a severely distorted view of the human body, relationships and interactions between women and men. To this, one must add the growing problem of sexual cyber bullying targeting vulnerable women and girls, such as in the highly covered case of Mila. The latter, a French LGBT high school girl, had to be placed under protection in the beginning of the year 2020 and removed from her school following online rape and death threats on the Internet after she had criticised Islam. Finally, cases of false allegations of sex abuse which have been brought out for years justify that Member States’ relevant authorities take all measures for the authors of these deliberately fabricated cases to be made fully legally liable. In general, from the stage of suspicion of sexual crime against a child all the way to the prosecution and sanctions taken towards the offender, all precautions and best practices have to be applied for Justice to prevail. As it appears, procedural errors or penal cases started because of false accusations of criminal sexual activity against children can at times disrupt the course of Justice by sanctioning innocent citizens. It is therefore crucial that the principle of presumption of innocence is never disregarded when a woman or a man becomes the object of suspicion of online child sex abuse. Tackling the problem of online child sex abuse at its roots requires, among other strategies, that schools and parents together join forces to educate their children to engage in...
relationships from an angle of respect for themselves, their body, their self-image, and respect for others. Respect for oneself and for others stems from an appreciation of the human person in their emotional and spiritual dimension, without the objectification of their body. Finally, we regret that not enough data concerning convicted child abusers is available and demand that competent actors step up their efforts in this regard. This does not contradict, however, the importance of taking measures regarding e-privacy rights only as far as it is necessary and legally authorised, as stated in the Commission proposal.

**AMENDMENTS**

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

**Amendment 1**

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(4) Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children constitute serious violations of human rights, in particular of the rights of children to be protected from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, as provided for by the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and by the Charter. Digitisation has brought about many benefits for society and the economy, but also challenges including an increase of child sexual abuse online. The protection of children online is one of the Union's priorities. On 24 July 2020, the Commission adopted an EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse9 ("the Strategy"), which aims to provide an effective response, at Union level, to the crime of child sexual abuse.

*Amendment*

(4) Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children constitute serious violations of human rights, in particular of the rights of children to be protected from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, as provided for by the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and by the Charter. In addition, the Istanbul Convention recognises that girls are often exposed to serious forms of gender-based violence including cyberviolence. Digitisation has brought about many benefits for society and the economy, but also challenges, notably increased child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation online, which has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting from broader access to potential victims and a sharp rise in the exchange of child sexual abuse material between child sexual offenders. There is also a growing number of cases of grooming during the COVID-19 pandemic, including an increase of self-generated content. Moreover, the
increased misuse of privacy-enhancing technologies by offenders to disguise their horrendous actions has made it more difficult for law-enforcement authorities to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute child sexual exploitation online. According to Europol, the proliferation of anonymisation tools and the higher amount of child sexual abuse material may also lead to a higher risk of repeat victimisation. The protection of children online is one of the Union's priorities as they are the most vulnerable in our society and not able to defend themselves.


9 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse, 24.7.2020 COM(2020) 607 final.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(4 a) Girls and young women are particularly exposed to the risks of sexual abuse, as well as sexual exploitation and account for the overwhelming majority of cases of child sexual abuse online. According to THORN and the Canadian Centre for Child Protection 80% of the children victim of sexual abuse were girls. Figures from a 2019 report from INHOPE show that 91% of victims were girls, 7% were boys and the median age of victims is decreasing with 92% of victims
According to End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography & Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) international report from 2017 child sexual offenders are predominantly male\(^{10a}\), which is relevant when it comes to the definition of key indicators. It is therefore important that girls and boys have access to safe, accessible and age appropriate channels to report the abuse without fear, in particular when the abuser is in the inner circle of the victim, since in such instances the reporting is low.


Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4 b (new)

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<th>Text proposed by the Commission</th>
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<td>(4 b) On 24 July 2020, the Commission adopted an EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse(^{9b}) (“the Strategy”), which aims to provide an effective response, at Union level, to the crime of child sexual abuse with due regard to different forms of sexual abuse experienced by girls and boys. As part of the Strategy, the Commission announced that it will propose sector-specific legislation including “clear mandatory obligations to detect and report child and young girls sexual abuse online to bring more clarity and certainty to the work of both law enforcement and relevant actors in the private sector to tackle online abuse”. Nevertheless the strategy, there is a great need for preventive measures and</td>
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a more targeted approach to take into account the specific circumstances and needs of various vulnerable groups of children, in particular girls.

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9 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse, 24.7.2020 COM(2020)0607 final.

Amendment 4
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5

**Text proposed by the Commission**

(5) Certain providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services, such as webmail and messaging services, are already using specific technologies to detect and report child sexual abuse online to law enforcement authorities and to organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse, or to remove child sexual abuse material, on a voluntary basis. Those organisations refer to national hotlines for reporting child sexual abuse material, as well as to organisations whose purpose is to reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimisation, located both within the Union and in third countries. Collectively, those voluntary activities play a valuable role in enabling the identification and rescue of victims, and reducing the further dissemination of child sexual abuse material, while also contributing to the identification and investigation of offenders, and the prevention of child sexual abuse offences.

**Amendment**

(5) Number-independent communication services have a major role to play in detecting cases of child sexual abuse online and in removing at source child sexual abuse material from their networks to avoid further victimisation as every new visualisation of the material is harmful for the victim. Underaged children must have access to safe, accessible and age appropriate channels to report the abuse without fear, in particular when the abuser is in the inner circle of the victim. Certain providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services, such as webmail and messaging services, are already using specific technologies to detect and report child sexual abuse online to law enforcement authorities and to organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse and child exploitation, or to detect, remove and report child sexual abuse material in their services, on a voluntary basis. To enable the identification of the child victims and to properly identify detection errors by the providers, all the instances of possible
child sexual abuse online should be reported to law enforcement authorities and to organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse. Those organisations refer to national hotlines for reporting child sexual abuse material, as well as to organisations whose purpose is to reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimisation, located both within the Union and in third countries. Collectively, those voluntary activities play a valuable role in enabling the identification and rescue of victims, and reducing the further dissemination of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation material, while also contributing to the identification and investigation of offenders, and the prevention of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation offences.

Amendment 5
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) Until 20 December 2020, the processing of personal data by providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services by means of voluntary measures for the purpose of detecting and reporting child sexual abuse online and removing child sexual abuse material is governed by Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Amendment

(6) Until 20 December 2020, the processing of personal data by providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services by means of voluntary measures for the purpose of detecting and reporting child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation material is governed by Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Amendment 6
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) Directive 2002/58/EC does not contain any specific provisions concerning

Amendment

(7) Directive 2002/58/EC does not contain any specific provisions concerning
the processing of personal and other data in connection with the provision of electronic communication services for the purpose of detecting and reporting child sexual abuse online and removing child sexual abuse material. However, pursuant to Article 15(1) of Directive 2002/58/EC, Member States may adopt legislative measures to restrict the scope of the rights and obligations provided for in, inter alia, Articles 5 and 6 of that Directive, which concern confidentiality of communications and traffic data, for the purpose of prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution of criminal offences linked to child sexual abuse. In the absence of such legislative measures, and pending the adoption of a new longer-term legal framework to tackle child sexual abuse effectively at Union level as announced in the Strategy, there would be no legal basis for providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services to continue to detect and report child sexual abuse material in their services beyond 21 December 2020.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) This Regulation therefore provides for a temporary derogation from Article 5(1) and Article 6 of Directive 2002/58/EC, which protect the confidentiality of communications and traffic data. Since Directive 2002/58/EC was adopted on the basis of Article 114 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, it is appropriate to adopt this Regulation on the same legal basis. Moreover, not all Member States have adopted legislative measures at national level to restrict the scope of the rights and

Amendment

(8) This Regulation therefore provides for a temporary derogation from Article 5(1) and Article 6 of Directive 2002/58/EC, which protect the confidentiality of communications and traffic data. **Voluntary measures by providers offering number-independent interpersonal communications services in the Union applied for the sole purpose of detecting and reporting child sexual abuse online and detecting, removing and reporting child sexual abuse material therefore become subject to the**
obligations provided for in those provisions in accordance with Article 15(1) of Directive 2002/58/EC, and the adoption of such measures involves a significant risk of fragmentation likely to negatively affect the internal market.

Amendment 8
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) Since the sole objective of this Regulation is to enable the continuation of certain existing activities aimed at combating child sexual abuse online, the derogation provided for by this Regulation should be limited to well-established technology that is regularly used by number-independent interpersonal communications services for the purpose of detecting and reporting child sexual abuse online and removing child sexual abuse material before the entry into force of this Regulation. The reference to the technology includes where necessary any human review directly relating to the use of the technology and overseeing it. The use of the technology in question should therefore be common in the industry, without it necessarily being required that all providers use the technology and without precluding the further evolution of the technology in a privacy-friendly manner.

Amendment

(11) Since the sole objective of this Regulation is to enable the continuation of certain existing activities aimed at combating child sexual abuse online, the derogation provided for by this Regulation should be limited to well-established technology that is regularly used by number-independent interpersonal communications services for the purpose of detecting and reporting child sexual abuse online and removing child sexual abuse material. The reference to the technology includes where necessary any human review directly relating to the use of the technology and overseeing it. The use of the technology in question should therefore be common in the industry, without it necessarily being required that all providers use the technology and without precluding the further evolution of the technology in a privacy-friendly manner. In this respect, it should be immaterial...
manner. In this respect, it should be immaterial whether or not a particular provider that seeks to rely on this derogation itself already uses such technology on the date of entry into force of this Regulation. The types of technologies deployed should be the least privacy-intrusive in accordance with the state of the art in the industry and should not include systematic filtering and scanning of communications containing text but only look into specific communications in case of concrete elements of suspicion of child sexual abuse.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) In order to ensure transparency and accountability in respect of the activities undertaken pursuant to the derogation, the providers should publish reports on an annual basis on the processing falling within the scope of this Regulation, including on the type and volumes of data processed, number of cases identified, measures applied to select and improve key indicators, the numbers and ratios of errors (false positives) of the different technologies deployed, measures applied to limit the error rate and the error rate achieved, the retention policy and the data protection safeguards applied.

Amendment

(14) In order to ensure transparency and accountability in respect of the activities undertaken pursuant to the derogation, the providers should publish reports on an annual basis on the processing falling within the scope of this Regulation, including on the type and volumes of data processed, number of cases of child sexual abuse identified with gender-disaggregated data, when possible, measures applied to select and improve key indicators, the numbers and ratios of errors (false positives) of the different technologies deployed, measures applied to limit the error rate and the error rate achieved, the retention policy and the data protection safeguards applied.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation
Article 1 – paragraph 1
This Regulation lays down temporary and strictly limited rules derogating from certain obligations laid down in Directive 2002/58/EC, with the sole objective of enabling providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services to continue the use of technologies for the processing of personal and other data to the extent necessary to detect and report child sexual abuse online and remove child sexual abuse material on their services.

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) material constituting child pornography as defined in Article 2, point (c), of Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;

Amendment

deleted

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(a a) ‘solicitation’ as:

(i) the proposal by an adult to meet a child who has not reached the age of sexual consent, for the purpose of committing any of the offences referred to in Article 3(4) and Article 5(6) of Directive 2011/93/EU;

(ii) an attempt to commit the offences provided for in Article 5(2) and (3) by an adult soliciting a child who has not reached the age of sexual consent to provide child pornography depicting that
Amendment 13
Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) solicitation of children for the purpose of engaging in sexual activities with a child or of producing child pornography by any of the following:
(i) luring the child by means of offering gifts or other advantages;
(ii) threatening the child with a negative consequence likely to have a significant impact on the child;
(iii) presenting the child with pornographic materials or making them available to the child.

Amendment 14
Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) ‘pornographic performance’ as defined in Article 2(e) of Directive 2011/93/EU.
(c) ‘pornographic performance’ as defined in Article 2(e) of Directive 2011/93/EU, including revenge porn.

Amendment 15
Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c a) ‘sex extortion’

Amendment 16
Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(2 a) ‘child’ means any person below the age of sexual consent;

Amendment

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(2 b) ‘child sexual abuse material’ means:

(a) material constituting child pornography as defined in Article 2, point (c), of Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;

(b) material constituting ‘child prostitution’ as defined in Article 2, point (d), of Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Amendment

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

The specific obligations set out in Article 5(1) and Article 6 of Directive 2002/58/EC shall not apply to the processing of personal and other data in connection with the provision of number-independent interpersonal communications services strictly necessary for the use of technology for the sole purpose of removing child sexual abuse material and detecting or reporting child sexual abuse online to law enforcement authorities and to organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse, provided that:

Amendment

The specific obligations set out in Article 5(1) and Article 6 of Directive 2002/58/EC shall not apply to the processing of personal data in connection with the provision of number-independent interpersonal communications services strictly necessary for the use of technology for the sole purpose of detecting and removing child sexual abuse material and detecting child sexual abuse online or reporting both to law enforcement authorities and to organisations acting in the public interest against child sexual abuse, provided that:
abuse, provided that:

Amendment 19
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) the processing is proportionate and limited to well-established technologies regularly used by providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services for that purpose before the entry into force of this Regulation, and that are in accordance with the state of the art used in the industry and are the least privacy-intrusive;

Amendment

(a) the processing is proportionate and limited to well-established technologies regularly used by providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services for that purpose, and that are in accordance with the state of the art used in the industry and are the least privacy-intrusive;

Amendment 20
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) the processing is limited to what is strictly necessary for the purpose of detection and reporting of child sexual abuse online and removal of child sexual abuse material and, unless child sexual abuse online has been detected and confirmed as such, is erased immediately;

Amendment

(d) the processing is limited to what is strictly necessary for the purpose of detection and reporting of child sexual abuse online and detection, reporting and removal of child sexual abuse material and. Where no child sexual abuse online has been detected and confirmed as such, the relevant data shall be retained solely for the following purpose and only for the time period necessary:

Amendment 21
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d – indent 1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

- for its reporting and to respond to proportionate requests by law
enforcement and other relevant public authorities;

Amendment 22
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d – indent 2 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

- for the blocking of the concerned user’s account;

Amendment 23
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d – indent 3 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

- in relation to data reliably identified as child pornography, for the creation of a unique, non-reconvertible digital signature ('hash');

Amendment 24
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d – indent 4 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

- for proceedings of administrative or judicial review or remedy.

Amendment 25
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) the provider annually publishes a report on its related processing, including on the type and volumes of data processed,
number of cases identified, measures applied to select and improve key indicators, numbers and ratios of errors (false positives) of the different technologies deployed, measures applied to limit the error rate and the error rate achieved, the retention policy and the data protection safeguards applied.

number of cases of child sexual abuse and child sexual abuse material identified, reported and removed, showing gender disaggregated data, when possible, measures applied to select and improve key indicators, numbers and ratios of errors (false positives) of the different technologies deployed, measures applied to limit the error rate and the error rate achieved, the retention policy and the data protection safeguards applied.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

As regards point (d), where child sexual abuse online has been detected and confirmed as such, the relevant data may be retained solely for the following purposes and only for the time period necessary:

— for its reporting and to respond to proportionate requests by law enforcement and other relevant public authorities;

— for the blocking of the concerned user’s account;

— in relation to data reliably identified as child pornography, for the creation of a unique, non-reconvertible digital signature (‘hash’).

Amendment

deleted

Justification

Moved up to (d)
## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Temporary derogation from certain provisions of Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the use of technologies by number-independent interpersonal communications service providers for the processing of personal and other data for the purpose of combatting child sexual abuse online</th>
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<td>10.9.2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date appointed</td>
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<td>Date adopted</td>
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## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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<td>Christine Anderson</td>
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**Key to symbols:**
- **+**: in favour
- **-**: against
- **0**: abstention
ANNEX: LIST OF ENTITIES OR PERSONS
FROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT

- Access Now
- Australian eSafety Commissioner
- Bundesrechtsanwaltskammer (BRAK)
- Canadian Centre for Child Protection
- cdt - Center for Democracy & Technology
- eco - Association of the Internet Industry
- EDPS
- EDRI
- Facebook
- Fundamental Rights Agency
- Improving the digital environment for children (regrouping several child protection NGOs across the EU and beyond, including Missing Children Europe, Child Focus)
- INHOPE – the International Association of Internet Hotlines
- International Justice Mission Deutschland e.V./ We Protect
- Internet Watch Foundation
- Internet Society
- Match Group
- Microsoft
- Thorn (Ashton Kutcher)
- UNICEF
- UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy
- World Childhood Foundation Deutschland
## Title
Temporary derogation from certain provisions of Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the use of technologies by number-independent interpersonal communications service providers for the processing of personal and other data for the purpose of combatting child sexual abuse online

## References

## Date submitted to Parliament
10.9.2020

## Committee responsible
Date announced in plenary
LIBE 17.9.2020

## Committees asked for opinions
Date announced in plenary
ITRE 17.9.2020
IMCO 17.9.2020
CULT 17.9.2020
FEMM 17.9.2020

## Not delivering opinions
Date of decision
ITRE 15.10.2020
IMCO 27.10.2020
CULT 1.10.2020

## Rapporteurs
Date appointed
Birgit Sippel 21.9.2020

## Discussed in committee
24.9.2020
16.11.2020
7.12.2020

## Date adopted
7.12.2020

## Result of final vote

|   | +: 53 | -: 9 | 0: 2 |

## Members present for the final vote

## Substitutes present for the final vote
Delara Burkhardt, Andor Deli, Leopoldo López Gil, Kostas Papadakis, Anne-Sophie Pelletier, Rob Rooken, Domèneç Ruiz Devesa, Hilde Vautmans, Petar Vitanov

## Date tabled
11.12.2020
### FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

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Key to symbols:
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