Question for written answer E-002442/2022 to the Commission Rule 138 Moritz Körner (Renew)

Subject: Network blocking

At the beginning of the year, the Commission published a call for tender for a central European DNS resolver (DNS4EU). There is no market-driven need to create a pan-European DNS resolver of this kind at national level, as 86.7 % of internet users in the EU use DNS resolvers managed by their internet service providers in their countries.

The call for tender provides that this new DNS resolver will be able to block websites with illegal content on the basis of legal requirements applicable in the EU or court orders issued by Member States. As the Commission explained in its answer to a question submitted by this author, there is currently no EU legislation that provides for EU-wide network blocking.

The proposal for a regulation put forward by the Commission in Procedure 2022/0155(COD) provides for the possibility of issuing an order obliging a provider of internet access services under the jurisdiction of a given Member State to take reasonable measures to prevent users from accessing material known to contain child sexual abuse.

If both the DNS4EU and the regulation to be adopted under procedure 2022/0155(COD) were in force, would a blocking order issued under that regulation, in the Member State where the DNS4EU is established, result in the DNS4EU having to block the URLs in question across the EU?