

**Priority question for written answer P-001936/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Combating child abuse

On 11 May 2022, the Commission presented a proposal for a Regulation on combating child abuse. E-mail providers, messaging services and hosting providers will in future be obliged to search all their users' messages for prohibited content using artificial intelligence (AI).

The Commission proposal is very far-reaching. The intention is to use AI to analyse all communication. However, if such a toolbox exists, in the long run it will be extended to other areas, not only for the detection of crimes but also for the detection of politically unwelcome opinions.

The Commission claims that its proposal is proportionate and appropriate. The German Child Protection Association, on the other hand, states that the majority of child abuse content is shared through platforms and in forums. Therefore, scanning private messages in messaging services or e-mails is neither proportionate nor useful. Moreover, the provisions are easy to circumvent. Chat Control is a monitoring tool introduced under the guise of combating child abuse.

1. What expert opinions, in particular legal opinions, did the Commission obtain in preparing its proposal?
2. How will the Commission ensure that two fundamental rights – the confidentiality of telecommunications and the fundamental right to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of information technology systems – continue to be protected?
3. What is the Commission's response to the criticism by the German Child Protection Association?