

**Council of Europe / Virtual Global Task Force**  
**Co-operation**  
**promoting the implementation of legislative frameworks**  
**on combating online sexual exploitation and abuse of children**

## **Mutual declaration of intent**

The Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) is aimed at combating child online sexual abuse worldwide. It currently comprises nine dedicated law enforcement agencies (Australian Federal Police, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre of the United Kingdom, Europol, INTERPOL, Italian Postal and Communication Police Service, National Child Exploitation Co-ordination Centre, as part of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, New Zealand Police, Ministry of Interior to the United Arab Emirates, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) as well as a number of private sector partners. Since its establishment in 2003, VGT co-operation has helped to rescue hundreds of children from sexual abuse, to conduct numerous targeted law enforcement operations and to hold to account hundreds of child sex offenders worldwide.

Domestic legislation consistent with international standards is an important prerequisite for international law enforcement co-operation aimed at protecting children against online sexual abuse.

The “Budapest” Convention on Cybercrime (CETS 185) and the “Lanzarote” Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS 201) of the Council of Europe provide such standards of reference and serve any country as guidelines for domestic legislation. On Tuesday, 1 November 2011, the INTERPOL General Assembly also adopted the ‘Combating Online Sexual Exploitation of Children Through a Legislative Global Engagement Strategy’ resolution.

The Council of Europe and the VGT, therefore, declare their intention to co-operate with each other in creating awareness of these standards and in promoting their implementation in countries that may require assistance.

Signed in two copies in Strasbourg on 22 November 2011.

**For and on behalf of the  
Virtual Global Taskforce**

*(signature)*

**Neil Gaughan**  
Assistant Commissioner and  
Chair, Virtual Global Taskforce

**For the  
Council of Europe**

*(signature)*

**Thorbjørn Jagland**  
Secretary General