Wed, 17 Nov
14h00 – 15h50

Workshop 6 – Automated detection of child sexual abuse materials

Languages: EN/FR

Purpose: Online child sexual exploitation and abuse has been a major violation of children's rights for many years; it has been further increasing since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past decade multi-national service providers deployed technology for the automated detection of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) that there uploaded or disseminated via their services. Tens of millions of CSAM have been identified and reported in this way, and in many cases have helped rescue victims and identify and prosecute offenders worldwide. At the same time, the use of such techniques have raised rule of law and human rights concerns, for example, that they interfere with the privacy of communications or involve the transborder transfer of personal data or violate due process requirements. These concerns came to the forefront with the entry into force of the European Union's European Electronic Communication Code which brought these providers under the strict rules of the E-privacy Directive of the EU. In June 2021, the Council of Europe published an independent experts' report on this matter. The aim of the workshop is to continue the search for solutions that permit governments to meet their positive obligation to protect children against online sexual violence and enable service providers to use automated technologies to identify and report CSAM with the necessary privacy, data protection and rule of law safeguards.

Moderator/s: Jean-Christophe Le Toquin (President Point de Contact (French hotline), and managing partner SOCOGI)
Rapporteur: Katarzyna Staciwa (Independent Expert, National Research Institute/Dyzurnet.pl, Poland)
Secretariat: Gioia Scappucci (Executive Secretary, Lanzarote Committee, Council of Europe) / Cristiana Mitea & Irina Drexler (Octopus Project, Council of Europe)

► Introduction and objective of the workshop

— Jean-Christophe Le Toquin

► Automated detection of child sexual abuse materials: How does it work?

— John Shehan (Vice President, Exploited Children Division, National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), USA)
— Arda Gerkens (CEO, Expertisebureau Online Kindermisbruik (EOKM), Netherlands)
— Discussion with intervention from Uri Sadeh (Coordinator, Crimes against Children Unit, VCO/Organized and Emerging Crime Directorate, INTERPOL)

► The problem: the right to privacy v. positive obligations to protect against crime

— Liora Lazarus (Professor of law, Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia, Canada and Supernumerary Fellow, St. Anne's College, Oxford, United Kingdom)
— Ella Jakubowska (Policy Advisor, European Digital Rights – EDRi)
— Discussion

► Solutions

— Interim regulation and long-term solutions by the European Union (Cathrin Baur-Bulst, Head of Unit Security in the Digital Age, DG Home, EU Commission)
— Proposals having regard to the Lanzarote Convention (Maria José Castello-Branco, Vice-Chairperson Member of the Lanzarote Committee, Portugal)
— The Dutch Public-Private Partnership program & view of Internet industry (Michiel Steltman, Managing Director, Dutch Digital Infrastructure Association, Netherlands)
— Discussion with interventions from General Eric Freyssinet (Deputy Commander of the Gendarmerie nationale's Cyberspace Command, France) and Fred Langford (Director of Online Technology, OFCOM, UK)

► Conclusions