



Fighting child sexual abuse

EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse

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Introduction

- Child sexual abuse is a serious crime with long-lasting consequences.
- It has both offline and online components, necessitating a comprehensive and global response.
- Fighting against this crime is a priority for the EU and further efforts are needed to ensure that all children are free from abuse and exploitation.

Call to action

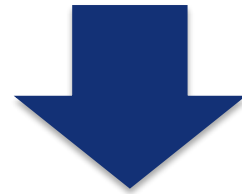
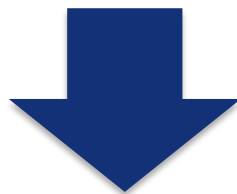
The Justice and Home Affairs Council and the European Parliament both called for more concrete action in:

- The Council conclusions on combating child sexual abuse
- Resolution on the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the rights of the child.



The Strategy

On 24 July 2020, the Commission adopted the Strategy on a more effective fight against child sexual abuse. It sets out to provide:



- ✓ An effective response to this crime at EU level;
- ✓ A framework for developing an efficient and comprehensive response to these crimes.

The Strategy

The Strategy sets out 8 initiatives that focus on:

- ✓ Implementing and developing the right legal framework;
- ✓ Strengthening law enforcement's response;
- ✓ Galvanising a coordinated multi-stakeholder response on prevention, investigation and assistance to victims.



Key initiatives

I. Implement and develop the right legal framework to protect children

1. Ensure complete implementation of current legislation (Directive 2011/93/EU);
2. Ensure that EU legislation enables an effective response;
3. Identify legislative gaps, best practices and priority action.

Key initiatives

II. Strengthen law enforcement response and enhance cooperation among all stakeholders

4. **Strengthen law enforcement efforts at national and EU level**
5. **Enable Member States to better protect children through prevention**
6. **A European Centre to prevent and counter child sexual abuse**
7. **Galvanise industry efforts to ensure protection of children in their services**
8. **Improve protection of children globally through multi-stakeholder cooperation**

I. Implementing and developing the right legal framework to protect children

1. Ensure complete implementation of current legislation

- The Commission will ensure, as a matter of priority, that Directive 2011/93/EU is completely implemented by all Member States.

2. Guarantee that legislation enables an effective response

- Several EU legislative instruments can support and shape the fight against child sexual abuse e.g. the e-evidence proposals or the Digital Services Act package.

3. Identify legislative gaps, best practices and priority actions.

- Directive 2011/93/EU will be assessed and legislative and implementation gaps, best practices and priority actions will be identified.

II. Strengthen LE response and enhance cooperation among all stakeholders

4. Strengthen law enforcement efforts at national and EU level

- The Commission will continue to **provide funding** under the relevant frameworks to encourage development of national LE technological capabilities.
- An **Innovation Hub and lab** will be set up at Europol to facilitate Member State's access to resources and experience of Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3)

5. Enable Member States to better protect children through prevention

- The Commission is setting up an EU-level **prevention network**.

II. Strengthen LE response and enhance cooperation among all stakeholders

6. *European Centre to counter child sexual abuse*

- The Commission will create a **European Centre to prevent and counter** child sexual abuse to enable a **comprehensive and effective** EU response against such abuse **online and offline**.

7. *Galvanise industry efforts to ensure protection of children in their services*

- Launch of expert process with industry under the **EU Internet Forum**, to assess solutions for **detection and reporting** of child sexual abuse in **end-to-end encrypted electronic communications**.
- Scope of the EU Internet Forum expanded to address the **regulatory and operational** challenges and opportunities with industry in the fight against these crimes.

II. Strengthen LE response and enhance cooperation among all stakeholders

8. *Improve protection of children globally through multi-stakeholder cooperation*

- The Commission will continue contributing to raise global standards for the protection of children against sexual abuse by promoting multi-stakeholder cooperation through the **WePROTECT Global Alliance**, and through dedicated **funding**.



References

- *EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse COM (2020) 607 final*
https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20200724_com-2020-607-commission-communication_en.pdf
- *Council Conclusions on combating child sexual abuse (st12862/19)*
<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12862-2019-INIT/en/pdf>
- *European Parliament resolution of 26 November 2019 on children's rights on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (2019/2876(RSP)0* https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2019-0066_EN.pdf
- *Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography,*
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32011L0093>

References

Interim Regulation on the processing of personal and other data for the purpose of combatting child sexual abuse:

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/interim-regulation-processing-personal-and-other-data-purpose-combatting-child-sexual-abuse>



Questions / discussion

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