

**Presentation made at the:
Council of Europe mid-term evaluation
of the Strategy for the Rights
of the Child (2016-2021)**

**High level conference
Strasbourg 13-14 November 2019**



Council of Europe: the power of technology

**June Lowery
Head of Unit**

**DG CNECT: Communications Networks, Content & Technology
European Commission**

14 November 2019



Internet – duh!



• Old barriers of location, wealth, contacts (



ted
vide
)



Opportunities vs Risks

On May 6, 2017 our 16-year-old son Tim died as a result of the 'choking game'. For us, unfortunately, a completely unknown world has opened up of dangerous and absurd online challenges....

As Tim's parents and sister, we want to prevent new victims from falling among young people. "

~ Geert & Anita Reynders Internetchallenges.nl

The Internet Is Overrun With Images of Child Sexual Abuse. What Went Wrong?

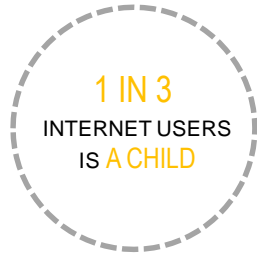
Online predators create and share the illegal material, which is increasingly cloaked by technology. Tech companies, the government and the authorities are no match.

By MICHAEL H. KELLER and GABRIEL J.X. DANCE

The New York Times, 28.9.2019

The suicide of Carolina Picchio, 14, after cyberbullying led to a new Italian law L. 71/2017, on cyberbullying. Initiated by Senator Elena Ferrara, Carolina's teacher.

Risks....



Internet abstinence
is not an option

Short term impact	Product design	Conduct	Data	CSAM online
Long term impact	Access to content	Contact	Industry accountability: safety vs shareholders	Speed and ever more emerging risks

European Strategy for a better internet for children

Coordination of EU-wide network €

Single entry point to online resources and services for
EU citizens and the Safer Internet community

Network € of Safer Internet Centres

- Awareness-raising
- Helplines
- Hotlines in the MS

ONLINE PROTECTION AND
EMPOWERMENT FOR ALL
betterinternetforkids.eu



Cooperation

- Alliance to better protect children online
- Safer internet for children MS Expert Group



EU Charter of Fundamental Rights Article 24 :

*In all actions relating to children, whether taken by public authorities or private institutions, **the child's best interests must be a primary consideration***

What is the EU doing? Legislation

- **Directive 2011/92** on combating the sexual abuse & sexual exploitation of children and child pornography
- Legislation with specific articles - examples
- **AVMSD** 2010/13/EU => 2018/1808 wef 19 Sep 2020 will apply to VSP (& VOD & traditional broadcasters)
Art 6a: "impair the physical, mental or moral development of minors"; personal data; advertising regulations; age verification, media literacy
- **GDPR** 2016/679 children's data needs special protection
Article 8: valid consent for children <16, exceptionally MS can define <13
- **Unfair Commercial Practices Directive** (#ad, no "direct exhortation")
- Legislation with impact on everyone incl. children - examples
- consumer protection (in app purchases), product safety legislation,...
- **Framework Decision** on combating certain forms and expressions of **racism and xenophobia** by means of criminal law (2008/913/JHA, 28.11.2008)
- **E-commerce** Directive 2000/31 internal market framework for e-commerce
Article 14 ISPs not liable for content hosted, but if notified of **illegal** activity or information, **must act expeditiously** to remove or disable access (notice & take-down)

What is the EU doing?

Next Commission:

Commissioner-designate **Dubravka Šuica**
Democracy and Demography

*will be the Commission's lead for protecting children's rights. [She] will prepare a **comprehensive strategy on the rights of the child**. It should include actions to protect vulnerable children, **protect their rights online**, foster child-friendly justice and prevent and fight violence.*

*Commissioner-designate for Internal Market
(DG CNECT): Thierry Breton*

Power of technology for good !

AI as a game-changing opportunity

- *Things are going to change with AI....
Eg language technologies,...*

EU AI High Level Expert Group
policy and investment recommendations

- *(further) tackle online CSAM*
- *improve content/conduct moderation*
- *« nudge » behaviour (eg prompts re comments & searches)*

Partnership needed



- *No « one » responsible,*
- *We all are, and can all help to reduce risks*
- *Overlapping but positive international initiatives: CoE, UN, OECD, ...*
- *EU political attention (Council conclusions, EU Internet Forum, new Commission, EP)*
- *Attention in different MS*
- *Need to work with industry & civil society*

We need to listen to & work with Young People

You are "25% of the population but 100% of the future"

Thanks for your attention !

Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit.

Благодаря за Вашето внимание * Köszönjük figyelmüket

Hvala na pozornosti * Tak for din opmærksomhed

Gracias por su atención * Täname tähelepanu eest

Kiitos huomiostanne * Merci pour votre attention

Σας ευχαριστούμε για την προσοχή σας

Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur n-aird féin a tharraingt air

Grazie per l'attenzione * Paldies par uzmanību!

Dékojame už dėmesį * Grazzi tal-attenzjoni tiegħek

Bedankt voor uw aandacht * Dziękujemy za uwagę.

Obrigado pela sua atenção * Mulțumiri

Ďakujeme vám za pozornost' * Zahvaljujemo se vam

Tack för din uppmärksamhet * Děkuji Vám za pozornost