

Meeting with Thorn 10 February 2021

Participants: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Thorn
EP: [REDACTED], Coordinator of the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights
Commission: C. Hili (CAB PRES), M. Maglione (CAB Johansson), [REDACTED] (SG)

The call was organised to discuss latest developments in the area of fighting child sexual abuse online.

Thorn representatives explained that they work at the intersection of private industry, law enforcement and NGOs and their work focuses on finding the balanced ground for the most privacy forward approach that still allows the detecting of child sexual abuse. They also pointed out that it was important to get the future EU legislation in this field right as it will have global implications. Thorn offered their expertise as support going forward.

The Commission reiterated its commitment to tackle the issue of child sexual abuse online. It informed about the launch of the open public consultation that will feed into its legislative proposal on child sexual abuse to be prepared for later in 2021 and invited Thorn to answer it. It expressed its commitment to work towards reaching an agreement on the interim legislation. The Commission also pointed out that, in line with the July Strategy, it was also looking at the possibility to establish an EU Centre for fighting child sexual abuse. An impact assessment that is looking at different policy options will be developed. Discussions on developing solutions in relation to end-to-end encryption have started and it looked like solutions were possible – these were presented in the Ministerial meeting of the EU Internet Forum in January. Thorn informed that they were also setting up a Task Force to work on issues related to encryption.

The European Parliament explained that it is working towards finding a timely solution on the interim legislation.