

From: [REDACTED] (CAB-BRETON)
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To: CAB BRETON ARCHIVES
Subject: BTO - CAB Breton meeting with Thorn on CSAM - 18/10/21

BTO CAB Breton meeting with Thorn on CSAM 18/10/21

Thorn: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
COM: Filomena Chirico, [REDACTED]

- Thorn is a US-based non-profit organization that builds technology to defend children from sexual abuse and online exploitation, mostly for tech companies. 75% of the organisation are engineers.
- It was founded by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], firstly for child sex trafficking, but they reoriented on child sexual abuse when the scale of the problem became clear.
- Until the interim regulation had not done too much internationally, now following also the DSA and the AI regulation in addition to the CSAM specific developments.
- They offer a number of technological tools to the service providers, including a hashmatching tool to detect known content, an AI classifier to look for new content and they are in the process of developing a grooming classifier.
- They also do research in house on developing features with safety by design in mind and public out reach campaigns to bring awareness about the issues.
- Concerned that despite the agreement on the interim regulation, Facebook has still not re-started scanning Messenger (*they stopped in December 2020 when the Electronic Communication Code was applied*).
- As a result, NCMEC (*a US based Centre currently handling CSAM cybertips from companies*) has reported a 78% reduction in reports for Europe.
- Thorn noted that they continue to put pressure on the company to restart.
- Thorn also enquired about what information or analysis would be useful in the coming months leading up to the long term legislation.
- CAB Breton explained that factual information on the functioning of the tools, including on how privacy and accuracy can be assured is key. Information on the safeguards to ensure that innocent people do not get caught up by the tools is also key, for example where teenagers are sharing intimate images among each other.
- Thorn is working on setting up technical briefings, including on the safeguards. Their first focus would be on grooming but they will also into organising briefings for the other tools.
- On encryption Thorn emphasised that the solutions need to come from the industry and that they will be varied, they will look into covering this issue also in their technical briefing.
- While welcoming the plan to have an EU Centre, Thorn cautioned against having multiple reporting channels for companies in terms of different Centres and emphasised the need for close coordination.
- Overall Thorn offered expertise and experience in translating the US experience to other jurisdictions, acknowledging that the EU comes also with a wide variety of languages.
- Thorn is interested to know more and see if it is possible to contribute to the Safer Internet campaign. CAB Breton explained that the European strategy for a better internet for children will be renewed next year and invited Thorn to contribute. COM agreed to send relevant contacts in DG CNECT to Thorn.

