

**Meeting between Werner Stengg (Cabinet of EVP Vestager) and Thorn**  
**30 September 2021**

Participants: Werner STENGG (Cabinet of EVP Vestager), [REDACTED] (Thorn), [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (Finsbury Glover Hering)

The meeting was initiated by Thorn to present their efforts to tackle online child sexual abuse and to discuss relevant Commission policies. Thorn is a non-profit technology company that offers solutions to online service providers, which detect, remove and report child sexual abuse material with Artificial Intelligence. Thorn has over 30 clients around the world and their pricing mechanism aims to allow smaller players to use their services. Thorn is working on a new algorithm to capture grooming activities, which relies entirely on pattern matching language analysis, without a continuous scanning of all textual communications.

Thorn explained that they also support privacy-enhancing measures, such as Apple's new Private Relay. Thorn offered to provide assistance for the Commission's policy work by presenting and explaining relevant technologies.

Concerning the up-coming Commission proposal to tackle online child sexual abuse and replace the interim regulation adopted earlier this year, Thorn identified three priorities: maintaining legal certainty that allows continuing the detection and reporting activities, introducing mandatory reporting to law enforcement authorities and creating an EU centre that can effectively coordinate with its US counterpart.

Mr Stengg explained that protection of children online is a key political objective of the Commission as reflected by recent and upcoming proposals and strategies. He explained the relevance of the Digital Services Act in tackling serious crimes taking place on large online platforms. Mr Stengg reminded that the long-term legislation tackling online child sexual abuse is being prepared with the lead of Commissioner Johansson.

(Report prepared by [REDACTED] SG.D1)