BTO: Meeting with Thorn, 23.09.2021

Participants:

- DG CNECT: [REDACTED] (Thom)
- Third Parties: [REDACTED] (Thom)
  [REDACTED] (Finsbury Glover Hering)

Main points discussed:

Thorn submitted a reply to the Commission’s call for feedback on the Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act). As a follow up, they requested a meeting to discuss the intersection of the AI Act and the fight against online Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

The following topics were discussed:

- Work of Thorn and role of AI-based tools in online child protection, such as text analysis to prevent grooming
- Thorn’s experience with AI-based tools and feedback loop with industry partners on their tools; so far positive and no cases of misuse
- Consultation response to the AI Act and preliminary results of the feedback initiative
- Transparency requirements under the AI Act and privacy concerns regarding the risk of circumvention by criminals
- Approach of the AI Act to biometrics and potentially beneficial use cases of facial recognition technologies to find at-risk children in the fight against CSAM
- Thorn’s experience with facial recognition technologies in the US and Canada, in particular with one of their tools deployed exclusively by law enforcement to find minors whose photographs are being used in child pornography

Operational conclusion:

Thorn offered to share background research and use cases on AI tools in online child protection.