MEETING DOCUMENT

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Law Enforcement Working Party (Police)
Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse - presentations

Delegations will find attached the presentations made at the meeting of the LEWP (Police) on 22 June 2022:

- by the Commission services on "The WeProtect Global Alliance Summit, 1-2 June 2022";

- by the Presidency on the "Combatting Child Sexual Exploitation: State of Play and Perspectives - Presentations of the Conclusions of the Paris Seminar";

- by EUROPOL on "Europol's work to counter child sexual exploitation".

This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.
The WeProtect Global Alliance Summit
1-2 June 2022
Background- WeProtect Global Alliance

• European Commission and the US set up the Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online in 2012;
  • 54 countries brought together to improve victim protection, identify and prosecute offenders, raise awareness and reduce availability of child sexual abuse material online

• United Kingdom set up WeProtect in 2014;
  • Bringing together governments, industry and NGOs with similar objectives.

• A merger took place in 2016 → WeProtect Global Alliance

• The WeProtect Global Alliance is now an independent foundation:
  • 99 governments, 29 global tech companies, 73 CSOs & 9 international organisations
Added Value - WeProtect Global Alliance

• Child sexual abuse is a borderless and global crime and the online dimension of this crime continues to expand.

• WPGA advances countries’ commitments towards a more coordinated and comprehensive response to the global fight against child sexual abuse.

  • Global Threat Assessments
  
  • Model National Response
  
  • Events incl. summits - awareness raising, education, building momentum and connections
  
  • Facilitates connections, sharing of best practices, lessons learnt working through challenges
  
  • Commissions and promotes research
Summit- *Turning the tide on child sexual abuse online 1-2 June 2022*

- An unique opportunity for the Alliance members to come together to share learnings, agree on collaborative solutions and reaffirm their commitment to take action to combat child sexual abuse.

- 400 in-person delegates and nearly 500 online attendees.

- Diverse break-out sessions and panel discussions covered different angles on the fight against online child sexual abuse
Outcomes and next Steps

• Raised awareness of the crime and increased momentum for concrete actions

• Summit Communique reiterating Alliance’ Members commitment to the fight against child sexual abuse

• Singapore joins the WeProtect Global Alliance

• Establishment of a Global Taskforce of governments

• Launch of the Model National Response Review Report

• Tech Coalition launches the Voluntary Framework for Industry Transparency
Video- Summit

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IuEzeqtE6Y&list=PPSV
Resources

- WeProtect Global Alliance website
- Launch of the Model National Response Review report: Framing the Future
- Global Threat Assessment 2021
- Communique from the summit: Turning the Tide on Child Sexual Abuse Online
- Global Governments Taskforce on Child Sexual Abuse Online
- Tech Coalition: Voluntary Framework for Industry Transparency
Thank you
Combatting Child Sexual Exploitation: State of Play and Perspectives

Presentations of the Conclusions of the Paris Seminar
Overview of the Seminar

- A three day international seminar designed and organised by the French Central Office for the Fight against Serious and Violent Crimes (OCRVP).

- A diversity of actors: law enforcement agents, representatives of the justice system, NGOs, associations, internet and finance companies, psychologists, criminologists,…

- A seminar opened by the Director General of the French National Police who expressed four expectations: better care and support for victims, better monitoring and detection of financial flows, closer collaboration between actors, stronger international police cooperation.
The Seminar Program

A **first seminar in Singapore in 2019** that had led to discussions related to the phenomena of livestreaming and travelling child sexual offenses (TCSO). We made this the starting point for the seminar on Day 1.

### Day 1
Livestreaming and TCSO: a state of play following the discussions initiated in 2019.

### Day 2
Perspectives on the efficient detection, reporting and removal of online child sexual abuse content.

### Day 3
Latest news on tracking child sexual offenders on the internet.
**Live Distant Child Abuse (LDCA)**

**Definition:** situation in which a customer orders online sexual assaults or rapes on minors, in order to view them live.

This **phenomenon has increased due to the pandemic**, as the closing of borders has led pedocriminals to develop new ways of action. In France, between 200 and 300 targets are still awaiting treatment.

**Concern of the international community:** with the reopening of the borders, livestreamers could travel abroad on a massive scale to commit child sexual offenses.

LDCA is done **through accessible platform**: e.g. *Whatsapp, Skype*, websites for adults available on the clear net.

This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in Southeast Asian countries, notably the Philippines, but **Western countries are also deeply concerned**:

- Children are exploited by livestreaming in European countries
- The vast majority of clients are Westerners
Live Distant Child Abuse (LDCA)

A crucial cooperation

➡️ International police cooperation with partners among and outside the EU :

- **Operation ‘December Rescue’**: led by the Romanian Police, several other European police services involved, the FBI provided critical information that led to the investigation.

- Recurrent contact with the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations Service, which provides numerous reports.

- Work with the Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children Center (PICACC).

➡️ Cooperation with NGOs: a study conducted by the NGO Ecpat France on several European countries.

➡️ Cooperation with internet companies: phenomenon that is difficult to detect because it takes place live, hence the need for collaboration with internet companies.
Travelling Child Sexual Offense (TCSO)

Double victimisation: TCSO is a phenomenon that concerns both girls and boys. Nevertheless, a taboo persists in several countries on the abuse of boys, who therefore remain silent so as not to be chased from their homes.

The need for proper care for victims, involving multidisciplinary cooperation (police, justice, social actors, doctors, psychologists,..).

Interpol – the Soteria project

The Soteria Project aims to follow and detect upstream the pedocriminals who try to integrate NGOs and humanitarian associations in order to abuse minors.
The importance of a good cooperation with internet companies

A French case study

Referral sent by Facebook to NCMEC: a chat between an adult suscriber and a child suscriber. The NCMEC report was then sent to the Central Unit for Minors Protection, allowing investigators to open a case.

The investigation was made possible thanks to clues in the chat. It allowed, only based on the discussions, to identify a case of child sexual abuse.

It underlines the necessity of a good cooperation with internet companies and the importance of the use of key words to detect cases of online grooming.

A Brazilian case study

15 reports were made on NCMEC and were sent to the Brazilian law enforcement services.

The suspect stored images and videos of child sexual abuses on Google Drive and Google Photos. There was indications that they had been produced by the suspect.

The detection of the crime would probably not have been possible without the automatic control of the internet companies, despite the seriousness of the facts.
The importance of a good cooperation with internet companies

Serious consequences

➔ The case of a French Internet company that did not put in place adequate measures to prevent the sharing and downloading of pedocriminal material on its storage website.

➔ This company had become the world’s leading host of CSAM content. Its cooperation with the French national police has allowed to modify the conditions of access to this service and to remove the CSAM.

➔ Hence the need for operators to evaluate the risk and then take into account the measures to be implemented to counter the dissemination of CSAM.

Companies take action

➔ Some internet companies like Meta support the implementation of mandatory measures to counter pedocriminal content.

➔ Specialised teams for the safety of minors have been set up.

➔ The company META is working to prevent the posting of harmful content on its platforms and the virality of such content.
Reporting, detection, removal: the limits of self-regulation

Self-regulation has its limits

NCMEC receives 83,000 reports per day, which amounts to **30,295,000 per year**.

- However, **98 % of the reports come from Internet companies**, which have a key role to play. Cooperation with law enforcement services is essential, but more needs to be done.

- Internet companies too often are waiting for authorities to compel them to act, even though measures could have been implemented in the first place. **Companies are responsible to society for providing a safe space for all users**, especially minors.

- The European Commission proposal of regulation is tackling the issue.
The proposal of regulation on sexual abuse on minors

The proposal of regulation of the European Commission on sexual abuse on minors was presented during the seminar by the representatives of DG Home. It allowed a better understanding of the objectives of this future legislation by all participants, especially law enforcement and hotlines.

Law Enforcement

Thanks to better quality reports, the number of unworkable reports and false positives will be considerably reduced. This will improve cross-border cooperation, but also cooperation at the national level, through the coordinating authority.

Hotlines

Their role is explicitly recognised in the proposal, as they are essential source of expertise for Coordinating Authorities.
New patterns in pedocriminal operating mods

The Darkweb

- The sexual exploitation of minors on the darkweb has never been so important.
- It has never been easier for an individual to hide his or her identity online, sexually exploit children and connect with other pedocriminals.
- Hundreds of thousands of pedocriminal users accounts are being logged, and communities of criminals are forming and developing security measures to evade law enforcement services.
- These communities encourage pedocriminals and lead to an increase in dangerousness.

Online video games and social media

- Pedocriminals use online video game chats and social media messaging system to solicit minors, this is called grooming.
- This phenomenon was amplified with the pandemic.
- 478% increase in cases of grooming (2020-2021)

Emergence of cryptocurrencies

- The use of cryptocurrencies in crimes against complicates the detection of content and investigations. This implies amplyfing the means of surveillance and detection of financial flows.
New developments in combatting CSE

**New software**

Developed by law enforcement services, NGOs and private companies to improve the fight against sexual exploitation of minors, particularly by increasing the capacity to filter reports.

**Grace Project**

European project to address CSEM referrals, to deploy a federated learning infrastructure, to automate the analysis of CSEM content and to track trends in online CSEM.

**Investing in video game devices**

- The undercover avatar device developed by the NGO l’Enfant bleu, Havas Play and the OCRVP, made it possible to contact 1200 children in just a week.
- Video games as a new place to track down pedocriminals.

**OIF-Francopol Practical Guide**

- To equip justice and police professionals in order to adapt their behaviour towards victims and offenders and to fight more effectively against child sexual exploitation.
Europol’s work to counter child sexual exploitation

Jean-Philippe Lecouffe
Deputy Executive Director Operations
EC3’s Core Areas of Responsibility

Head of EC3

Expertise and Stakeholder Management
- PREVENTION & OUTREACH
- POLICY & DEVELOPMENT

Document and Digital Forensics
- DIGITAL FORENSICS
- DOCUMENT FORENSICS

Operations
- CYBER INTELLIGENCE
- AP CYBORG: HIGH-TECH CRIMES
- AP TERMINAL: PAYMENT FRAUD
- AP TWINS: CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
- AP DARK WEB
- JOINT CYBERCRIME ACTION TASKFORCE (J-CAT)
Analysis and dissemination of CSE referrals
NCMEC

From November 2013
Strategic and Operational Analysis

**Strategic analysis:** SOCTA, IOCTA and ad-hoc reports dedicated to child sexual exploitation and abuse.

**Operational Reports:** 1362 in 2021 and 56 in the first quarter of 2022.
German police make arrests over massive child pornography website

German police have arrested one of the world's largest underground websites for child pornography with more than 430,000 users and arrested four people connected to the platform, prosecutors said on Monday.

The "BOYSTOWN" platform has existed since at least June 2019 and was only accessible via the so-called Darknet, the Frankfurt public prosecutor's office and the BKA Federal Police said in a statement.

German police shut one of world's biggest darknet child abuse images sites

The "BOYSTOWN" platform had membership of more than 100,000 international subscribers.

German police shut down major darknet child sex abuse platform

After months of investigation, German police have busted the "BOYSTOWN" child sex abuse platform with over 400,000 members. Four German men have been arrested.
Operational Support: Digital Forensics
Victim Identification Task Force (VIDTF)

What is VIDTF?

- Experts gather for 2 weeks to tackle Child Sexual Abuse Material online, using advanced techniques, software and their knowledge/expertise

VIDTF I – X

- +5,700 series analysed
- +1,000 intelligence packages disseminated
- +550 victims safeguarded
- +190 offenders arrested and prosecuted

VIDTF XI

- +600 CSEM series processed
- Likely country of production determined for close to 350 of them

VIDTF operations have been organized by Europol since 2014 and have supported the development of national investigations.
Victim Identification: Trace An Object

This is a hotel room. Do U know which one? This info can help police solve a child sexual abuse case. Tell us on europol.europa.eu/stopchildabuse...
Offenders Prosecuted: 5
Children Safeguarded: 23
Image’s published on Europol’s Website: 264
Tips Received Since June 2017 until today: +27,000

On first day:
356,000 visits
4,500 tips
Capacity Building and Networks

- Specialised Training
- Innovation
- Networks: specialised international CSAE networks, EDEN, EC3 Advisory Groups, NGOs ...

7M€, 3 years, 22 partners
Platform for automated processing of referrals from Online Service Providers in order to fight Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM)
Awareness raising

Online child sexual coercion and extortion is a crime

Has this happened to you?

Say No!

We can help you. You are not alone.
Amendments to Europol Regulation

Article 26 b
*Exchange of personal data with private parties to address the online dissemination of online child sexual abuse material*

1. Europol may receive personal data directly from private parties and process those personal data in accordance with Article 18 to address the online dissemination of online child sexual abuse material, as referred to in Article 4(1), point (y).

2. Where Europol receives personal data from a private party established in a third country, Europol shall forward those data and the results of its analysis and verification of those data only to a Member State, or to a third country concerned as referred to in Article 25(1), point (a), (b) or (c), or in Article 25(4a).
Thank you for your attention