Diane,

With apologies for the delay, please find below a report on the Commissioner’s meeting with Giorgos Schmitt.

Participants:
Commissioner Avramopoulos, HoCAB Diane Schmitt, MoCAB Giorgos Rossides, Director Luigi Soreca

The courtesy meeting was requested on the occasion of a visit to Brussels to meet a number of European Commissioners, before travelling to Davos for the World Economic Forum.

thanked Commissioner Avramopoulos for his leadership against terrorist content online since the establishment of the EU Internet Forum in 2015. reiterated the commitment of Facebook to continue working closely with the European Commission against terrorist content online, emphasising that Facebook does not want terrorist content on its various platforms. recalled that Facebook took a leading role in developing the database of hashes and in working with other major platforms to ensure its operationalisation and uptake. acknowledged that more could and should be done to prevent terrorist misuse of online platforms, and committed to continuing and intensifying Facebook’s efforts in this respect.

Commissioner Avramopoulos thanked Facebook for its contribution in the EU Internet Forum, and stressed that the issue of terrorist content online is urgent and pressing, and that more action is needed from online platforms. He underlined that terrorist propaganda is a serious threat to security and demands a collective response – from all actors, including the internet industry. He welcomed the efforts made by online platforms and the resources they devote to removing terrorist content, including through the database of hashes and increasingly through automated removal. But he said that more needs to be done urgently to tighten our response to the challenge and to step up and speed up their efforts to tackle these threats quickly and comprehensively.