

Dublin Mission Ylva Johansson 7-8 February, 2022

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Meeting with Twitter Vice President for public policy Sinead McSweeney February 7th

Commissioner Johansson set the scene describing the problem and its magnitude, concluding that we were failing today to protect children from sexual abuse. She informed about the upcoming legislative proposal aiming to 1) create an EU Centre to prevent and counter child sexual abuse (CSA), 2) impose certain obligations for detection, reporting and removal of CSA online, and 3) consider safety by design principles.

VP Sinéad McSweeney outlined Twitter's content moderation policy including a proactive detection of child sexual abuse material using hashing and algorithms. She noted the platform has not been exposed to grooming since 95% of users are over 18 years old. She noted that the legislation is generally easier to implement for larger companies and might affect innovation if too prescriptive. Finally she mentioned safety by design in twitter's context and possible difficulties for new small companies.

The Commissioner and the VP also discussed challenges related to hate speech. Twitter is a member of the EU Internet Forum and engages with the Commission also under the Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech.

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