

**From:** [REDACTED] (HOME)  
**Sent:** mardi 21 avril 2020 20:12  
**To:** WEBBER Asa (CAB-JOHANSSON); [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED] ONIDI Olivier (HOME); [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED] MUSCHEL Laurent (HOME); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Flash report - call between HoC Åsa Webber and Dr. Hany Farid on the fight against disinformation, radicalisation and child sexual abuse

Dear all,

Please find below a flash report of the call. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Best regards

[REDACTED]

**Flash report - call between HoC Åsa Webber and Dr. Hany Farid on the fight against disinformation, radicalisation and child sexual abuse, 21 April 2020, 17:30-18:00**

**Participants:** Dr. Hany Farid (Professor, UC Berkeley), [REDACTED] (Vulcan Consulting); HoC Åsa Webber, [REDACTED] CAB Johansson); [REDACTED], Olivier Onidi, Laurent Muschel, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (DG HOME)

The call took place at the suggestion of Hany Farid, who asked to discuss the interplay between the outbreak of COVID-19 and the increased likelihood of online child sexual exploitation, and danger to an increase of online radicalisation of would-be terrorists.

By way of introduction, Hany Farid described the general problem he sees in the tech sector's approach to any crisis: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Åsa Webber concurred on the problem and highlighted that the fight against child sexual abuse and radicalization were key priorities for the Commissioner. She set out the Commission's envisaged response and thanked Farid for the input he could provide. Laurent Muschel outlined the plans for the EU Internet Forum work on encrypted environments and PhotoDNA, as well as for the Communication on the fight against Child Sexual Abuse that Commissioner Johansson plans to propose in June. He highlighted the similarities between scanning with PhotoDNA and scanning for spams or virus, which all companies provide. If tech companies accept one, they should accept the other as there is no difference in the level of intrusiveness for privacy.

Hany Farid concurred with the comparison between scanning for child sexual abuse materials and scanning for viruses, arguing that, if companies are willing to take action to protect the users against simple spam, they should also take responsibility for the safety of children from sexual abuse.

Farid referred to the technical working group chaired by D4 and showed appreciation for the work going in the right direction, lauding the approach on fostering a discussion on PhotoDNA and encrypted environments.

[REDACTED]

Åsa Webber highlighted the EU Internet Forum's key role in facilitating discussions with industry on these issues. She thanked Hany Farid for the input and invited him to stay in touch on these issues.

[REDACTED]  
Head of Unit (acting)



**European Commission**

DG Migration and Home Affairs

Unit D4 - Cybercrime

What we do: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/cybercrime\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/cybercrime_en)

The views expressed in this e-mail are my own and may not be interpreted as stating an official position of the European Commission.