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Ares (2020)

Dear [REDACTED] Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 2 September 2020 regarding the EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse.

First, I would like to warmly thank you for the continued support of Microsoft in the fight against child sexual abuse and exploitation. Microsoft is a key industry partner in the efforts made to combat these heinous crimes and ensure children's safety online, in particular with regard to tools and techniques to detect child sexual abuse material and grooming, such as PhotoDNA and Project Artemis. The Commission highly values the cooperation with Microsoft on all aspects of the fight against child sexual abuse, including the expert process on possible technical solutions to detect and report child sexual abuse in end-to-end encrypted electronic communications. I want to emphasize that I value this close cooperation very highly.

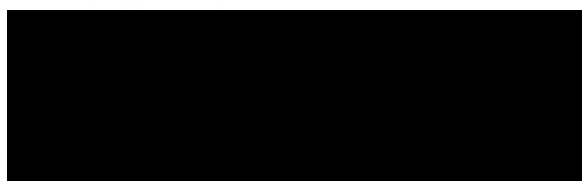
Let me assure you that the Commission will do its utmost to deliver on the actions presented in the EU Strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse. As the first and most urgent step, the Commission adopted on 10 September 2020 a proposal for a Regulation enabling detection and reporting of child sexual abuse online. As you are aware, voluntary measures to detect, report and remove child sexual abuse material and other instances of child sexual abuse online have been key to rescuing child victim of abuse and prosecuting offenders. The proposed Regulation, pending its adoption by the European Parliament and the Council, aims to enable those measures to continue until the adoption of longer-term sector-specific legislation announced in the EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse.

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The Commission proposal also covers the threat of grooming. I appreciate Microsoft's continued efforts and innovation to counter this phenomenon, such as 'Project Artemis'. Whereas by detecting child sexual abuse material, companies can prevent the further dissemination of depictions of abuse that has already taken place, by using tools to detect grooming behaviour, companies can detect and report situations of imminent danger to children. The proposed Regulation includes grooming in the definition of child sexual abuse online to allow the continued detection of text-based threats, such as grooming, in interpersonal communications.

I count on Microsoft's continued support and look forward to our continuing work together, both in the implementation of the strategy, and in the broader framework of the WePROTECT Global Alliance and the EU Internet Forum.

Yours faithfully,



Ylva Johansson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ylva Johansson', written over the printed name.