

Protecting civil rights - preventing chat control

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 2-3 December 2022:

Notes that:

- in October 2022, the European Commission published its Working Programme for 2023 including the *Proposal for a Regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse* presented in May 2022;
- while fighting the horrific crimes of child abuse is of outmost importance, the Commission's proposal goes far beyond this goal by forcing private companies to basically take on the role of public security authorities;
- the implementation of the proposal would require extensive content filters and the circumvention of encryption technologies;
- the Commission's assessment currently expects a 10% error rate for potential recognition software;
- multiple civil rights organisations, including associations for child protection, have criticised the proposal.

Believes that:

- criminal prosecution should not be privatised;
- the digital secrecy of correspondence is equivalent to the analogue secrecy of correspondence;
- the right to encryption and the integrity of privacy in digital spaces are important liberal principles;
- the constant monitoring of all chats, messages and e-mails from innocent citizens would set a dangerous legal precedent putting every citizens under constant suspicion.

Calls for:

- the European Parliament and the Council to reject the invasive and disproportionate proposal by the Commission in its current form;
- the ALDE Party and its member organisations to be at the forefront of fighting for digital civil rights which the proposal threatens, especially the right to digital privacy;
- efforts to make the reporting and deletion of prohibited content more effective;
- fighting child abuse online through more public investments for the equipment of the security authorities, especially for Europol, and for the intergovernmental cooperation of the authorities in general.

Resolution:

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Year and Congress:

Bratislava, December 22

Category:

Urgency

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