

On the Postponement of the 14 October Vote on the EU Chat Control Proposal

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Brussels, Belgium on 24-25 October 2025:

Notes that:

- Since summer 2025, Chat Control provisions in the proposed EU Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) Regulation have captured widespread public attention due to their draconian mass surveillance and encryption-breaking measures;
- The planned vote on 14 October was postponed due to significant divisions among EU governments and serious concerns about the risks to privacy, digital security, and fundamental rights;
- Chat Control mandates invasive scanning of private and end-to-end encrypted communications, threatening citizen privacy, journalistic freedom, and the security of vulnerable communities.

Believes that:

- Child sexual abuse online is an urgent issue that is more exacerbated by the rise of artificial intelligence;
- There is need for effective and proportionate measures to tackle child sexual abuse online;
- Such a proposal contradicts core liberal and democratic values that Renew Europe and ALDE uphold, including privacy, the presumption of innocence, secure encryption, digital rights, and the right to anonymous communication;
- The risks posed to cybersecurity and citizens' rights are unacceptable, particularly given the high error rates and ineffectiveness of AI scanning;
- The EU must not set a precedent endorsing mass surveillance and undermining encryption globally.

Calls for:

All Renew Europe MEPs, the European Parliament, and the Council of the EU to reject the current CSAM proposal unless it:

- Excludes client-side scanning and any compromise of end-to-end encryption;
- Secures the right to anonymous communication;
- Scanning strictly to targeted, court-authorized investigations;
- Upholds democratic accountability and transparency in any counter-abuse law;
- Protects digital freedoms as essential pillars of a free and open Europe;

This issue requires urgent action and awareness to defend our fundamental digital rights and the rule of law in the digital age.