

Statement on the Proposed EU Regulation on Chat Control (Client-Side Scanning)

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Subject: Balancing Security and Freedom – Why Europe Needs Chat Control

1. Introduction – Responsibility Instead of Alarmism

The current debate on the so-called “Chat Control” is marked by sharp criticism from various civil society groups, including IT associations and NGOs. It is often claimed that the European Union seeks to conduct mass surveillance of private communications.

However, this perception is misleading and distorts the true purpose of the proposal: protecting children and combating the most serious forms of crime in the digital sphere.

This is not about controlling citizens – it is about controlling crime.

The European Union bears the responsibility to find new ways to prevent crimes online before they occur. Chat control is not an attack on freedom but a tool to bring freedom and security into balance.

2. Child Protection Must Not Be an Empty Promise

Thousands of depictions of child sexual abuse circulate online every day, often unnoticed. Offenders use encrypted groups to network, trade illegal material, and exploit digital privacy protections for criminal purposes.

Without modern detection systems, many of these crimes remain invisible.

Chat control can help to break through this digital shadow world – through automated, lawful alerts that support investigative authorities and help prevent the suffering of children.

Anyone who truly cares about child protection cannot ignore digital reality.

3. Protecting Society from Terrorism and Serious Crime

Terrorism, extremism, and organized crime also exploit encrypted communications.

Terror attacks, arms trafficking, cybercrime, and drug markets are planned in the same digital spaces where everyday conversations take place. Without technical access mechanisms, law enforcement agencies remain blind to these threats.

A judicially supervised, proportionate, and legally controlled system of chat control can help uncover terrorist networks, prevent attacks, and save lives. This is not an infringement of fundamental rights – it is the state fulfilling its duty to protect.

4. No Contradiction Between Privacy and Security

The claim that chat control would end private communication is incorrect.

It is not about mass surveillance but about targeted, purpose-limited, and privacy-compliant

detection of clearly defined illegal content. Modern technologies such as Client-Side Scanning can be designed to react only to such illicit material – without affecting normal, lawful communication. Privacy and security are not opposites; they are two sides of the same coin.

5. Europe Needs Digital Responsibility

Europe must no longer leave digital responsibility to offenders, extremists, or criminal networks. We need a legal and technological framework that protects the freedom of citizens while ensuring the safety of society.

Chat control is not a universal solution – but it is a necessary tool to make the digital world safer.

Without security, there can be no genuine freedom.

Conclusion

Chat control is not an attack on fundamental rights – it is a protective instrument against those who threaten our open society.

If we are serious about protecting children, combating terrorism, and reducing digital crime, we must take courageous decisions, establish clear legal standards, and harness technology as part of the solution.

Laws alone are not enough – real security also requires technology.
