

Statement on „ChatControl“ Regulation on the Prevention and Combatting of the Sexual Abuse of Children

(Addressed to the European Institutions and the German Federal Government)

“child sexual abuse, serious crime, and terrorism”

Dear Sir or Madam,

The debate surrounding the so-called "chat control" highlights the tensions between security interests and the protection of fundamental rights. Many critics warn of an erosion of democratic principles. These concerns must be taken seriously – yet it is often overlooked that this initiative is not about restricting freedom, but about the necessary **protection of freedom**.

1. Proportionality and Rule of Law

The measures proposed by the European Commission primarily aim to combat the dissemination of child sexual abuse material and to protect children from digital threats such as grooming. At the same time, they contribute to combating other forms of serious crime, including terrorism and organized crime. Interventions into private communications occur exclusively within a legally regulated framework and according to the principle of proportionality. Blanket, suspicionless surveillance is neither intended nor necessary.

2. Protecting Fundamental Rights through Security

Fundamental rights can only flourish where the safety of citizens is ensured. Victims of violence or terrorism effectively lose their rights to freedom, self-determination, and physical integrity. Intelligent regulation of digital communications therefore protects against dangers while safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable.

3. Europe’s Technological Responsibility

Europe cannot rely on a naive notion of “absolute privacy” while perpetrators exploit advanced technologies to operate anonymously. A capable Europe must protect digital spaces as effectively as its physical borders. Chat control relies on controlled, legally safeguarded procedures designed to prevent abuse and ensure transparency.

4. Strengthening Democracy

A resilient democracy confronts threats proactively without compromising its own values. Parliamentary oversight, regular review, and evaluation ensure that this measure remains a tool for security and does not become an instrument of arbitrariness.

5. Call to Action

I therefore call on the **European institutions** and the **German Federal Government** to support the European Commission’s plans. This is not a choice between freedom and security, but a **commitment to both**. A measured, intelligent chat control is a crucial step in making Europe safer and in safeguarding the fundamental rights of all citizens in a digital world.

Yours sincerely,
Christian Dauck