

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002018/25
to the Commission
Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE)
(21 May 2025)**

Subject: Mandatory use of AI-based tools on social media platforms to detect new child sexual abuse material

Currently, the detection of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online is regulated by a temporary extension of the ePrivacy derogation ⁽¹⁾ to allow the voluntary detection, by Internet platforms, of such material.

Why has the Commission not proposed the mandatory use of AI-based tools on social media platforms to detect new CSAM, particularly in situations where end-to-end encryption is not an obstacle, despite research showing that AI is the only effective method for identifying new CSAM?

Submitted: 21.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(23 July 2025)**

The Commission presented a proposal for a regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse ⁽¹⁾, that would require certain types of online service providers to systematically identify, assess and mitigate the risk of use of their services for the dissemination of child sexual abuse material and solicitation of children ('grooming').

If preventive measures are not sufficient, providers may be obliged to detect online child sexual abuse if ordered to do so by a judicial or independent administrative authority. The proposal contains a series of safeguards that ensure the strict necessity and proportionality of detection orders.

The proposal is technology neutral and applies regardless of whether the services are end-to-end encrypted. Providers may choose detection technologies appropriate to their services, including artificial intelligence-based tools, provided that such technologies comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation ⁽²⁾, the ePrivacy Directive ⁽³⁾ and the proposal.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1232 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 July 2021 on a temporary derogation from certain provisions of Directive 2002/58/EC as regards the use of technologies by providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services for the processing of personal and other data for the purpose of combating online child sexual abuse (OJ L 274, 30.7.2021, p. 41, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1232/oj>).

⁽¹⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse, COM(2022) 209 final.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation, OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1-88, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R0679>).

⁽³⁾ Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 2002 concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector ('Directive on privacy and electronic communications') (OJ L 201, 31.7.2002, p. 37-47).