

EN
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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.12.2025)

The Commission agrees on the importance of the infrastructure and services responsible for child protection and has proposed measures to strengthen prevention in both its proposal for a Directive on criminal law¹ and for a Regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse². Both proposals rely on a thorough and publicly available impact assessment³, including on fundamental rights, and strive to achieve a fair balance in the protection of all fundamental rights impacted, including the right to privacy and the rights of the child enshrined in Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union⁴. Neither proposal permits the collection, aggregation, processing and recording of the content of users' conversations, nor does either proposal allow the detection of materials not linked to child sexual abuse.

Communications companies are the main actors that are capable of detecting explicit videos or videos that are child sexual abuse material. Currently, companies are encouraged to do this voluntarily – a practice that has existed for over a decade and proved essential for child protection. Data shows that voluntary detection of child sexual abuse by companies in private communication services led to the rescue of a significant number of victims and to the arrest of perpetrators⁵.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52024PC0060>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52022PC0209>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022SC0209>; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024SC0033>.

⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.

⁵ For sample cases, see the Impact Assessment accompanying the proposal, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022SC0209>, Annex 7, p. 267.