

EN

E-004528/2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.1.2026)

As announced in ProtectEU, the EU Internal Security Strategy¹, the Commission has tasked an Expert Group, in line with Commission Decision C (2016)3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups². The group's Terms of Reference, composition and expert names are available in the Register of Expert Groups³. Agendas, minutes and submissions will be accessible in the Register or via a website, except when disclosure undermines interest protection set in Article 4, Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001⁴.

To ensure a balanced and inclusive member selection, a public call for applications⁵ invited technical experts from both public and private sectors in the areas of home affairs, cybersecurity, telecommunications, big data, standardisation, justice and fundamental rights. The EU Cybersecurity Agency, the EU Data Protection Supervisor, and Europol are also included as members. Other entities, such as the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, Eurojust, and the EU Data Protection Board, will be invited on an ad hoc basis.

If the expert group finds that there is no technological solution for lawful access to encrypted data that respects fundamental rights and does not undermine cybersecurity, the group is expected to recommend the development of such solutions⁶. The Commission will consider these recommendations in its future policy work.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0148>.

² <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/regdel/web/meetings/2548/documents/6945>.

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&groupID=4005>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001R1049>.

⁵ See footnote 2, tab 'Additional information'.

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&groupID=4005>.