

EN

E-003023/2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.9.2026)

The Commission Proposal for a Regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse¹ ('the proposal') is equipped with numerous specific protections and safeguards for the fundamental rights of the affected individuals. The proposal relies on a thorough and publicly available impact assessment², demonstrating that it strives to achieve a fair balance in the protection of the rights to respect privacy and protection of personal data and the rights of the child. In particular, detection orders are envisaged as measures of last resort when prevention measures are insufficient. They are targeted only at services that are at risk, and at specific users or groups of users, where possible, and are issued by a judicial or independent administrative authority balancing all the rights at stake and following a thorough assessment of their necessity and proportionality. The proposal neither requires nor allows the indiscriminate scanning of private communications.

The implementation report³ finds that voluntary detection under Regulation (EU) 2021/1232⁴ made a significant contribution to child protection: available data show that thousands of children were identified and millions of images and videos were removed from circulation, reducing secondary victimisation. The Commission considers that the evidence supports the proportionality of the temporary and strictly limited regime, which remains justified to avoid legal gaps while negotiations on the proposed long-term Regulation continue.

The Commission will continue to support interinstitutional negotiations. The legislative process has advanced substantially, and the Commission is not aware of any reasons that would warrant withdrawing the proposal.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52022PC0209>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022SC0209>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0740>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1232/oj/eng>.