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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.6.2026)

The Commission regrets that the co-legislators were not able to agree on an extension of the temporary Regulation derogating from Articles 5 and 6 of the ePrivacy Directive before 3 April 2026, when the regime expired. The expiration of the interim regime may lead to serious consequences for the protection of children in the digital environment.

The Commission remains firmly committed to protecting the fundamental rights of children by combating the sexual abuse of children and the dissemination of child sexual abuse material, in line with its commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child¹ and Article 24(2) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union². In pursuing these objectives, the Commission is equally committed to ensuring full respect for the fundamental rights to privacy, confidentiality of communications and protection of personal data under EU law. The Commission's focus remains on supporting the co-legislators in bringing the on-going legislative discussions on the proposal for a Regulation to a conclusion as soon as possible, while taking all necessary steps for a continuous and effective protection of children³.

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT#id=%22d1e410-393-1>.

³ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52022PC0209>.