Flash Report – EU Internet Forum Senior Officials Meeting
28 June 2023

On 28 June 2023, DG HOME hosted the **EU Internet Forum Senior Officials Meeting** in hybrid format chaired by the Deputy Director General and Head of Unit D3 Prevention of Radicalisation. The meeting was divided into 5 parts:

1) Presentation on current trends and responses to terrorist and violent extremist content online
2) Updated on the work done on preventing and combating child sexual abuse online
3) Challenges on trafficking in human beings
4) Drugs trafficking online, with a presentation of the ongoing work on a knowledge package on drug sales online.
5) Adoption of the revised EUIF Rules of Procedure

1. Discussion on current trends and responses to terrorist and violent extremist content online.

— An expert presented on the trends regarding malicious use of new technologies to spread terrorist and violent extremist content. Highlighting as most pressing issue the use of generative AI, urging companies to improve their Trust and Safety measures and other process to tackle manipulation for malicious purpose.

— The Commission presented an update on the state of play on the implementation of the TCO Regulation. This was followed by presentations of a Member State and a company reporting their experience with issuing and receiving removal orders.

— The Commission presented three key deliverables to EUIF members, namely the study on the effect of algorithmic amplification, the handbook on borderline content in relation to violent extremism and the revised EU Crisis Protocol.

— Additional presentations from EUIF members provided additional operational details, key findings and recommendations.

— Companies welcomed the revised EU Crisis Protocol and guidance on its interplay with the Regulation to ensure a rapid and effective cross border response.

— The study on the effects of algorithmic amplification on radicalisation confirmed recommendation of, in particular, borderline content. The study found differences in amplification of content across platforms, languages and ideology. COM informed that the results of the study are being instrumental to the implementation of the Digital Services Act, especially as regards algorithmic transparency and risk assessments.

2. Preventing and combating child sexual abuse online

— The Commission updated on key efforts ongoing under the EU Strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse. These included, the evaluation and review of the EU Directive 2011/93 on combating child sexual abuse, exploitation and child pornography as well as the plans to set up a Network on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse which will bring together experts in the field to discuss and identify solutions to

prevention-related issues, showcase good practices and incentivise the development and deployment of effective and rigorously evaluated prevention mechanisms.

⸺ This update was followed by a presentation by Europol's AP TWINS within the Europol's cybercrime centre, looking at the challenges and opportunities that the increasing use of artificial intelligence-based technologies will bring to the fight against child sexual abuse as well as the challenges to prevent and combat child sexual abuse related to the deployment of end-to-end encryption in online services.

⸺ The company Cyacomb presented an example of a possible technology to detect child sexual abuse material in end-to-end encryption, prior to the material being encrypted and sent to the recipient.

3. **Drugs trafficking online, with a presentation of the ongoing work on a knowledge package on drug sales online.**

⸺ The Commission presented the state of play of the preparation of the knowledge package on drug sales online, indicated the input needed from EUIF needed, and the next steps in the development of the full package.

4. **Trafficking in human beings online**

− The Commission explained that trafficking in human beings irreversibly moved online; each and every trafficking offence has a digital element.

− Victims recruited, advertised and exploited in online environment. In order to fight the human trafficking happening online with success the following components are necessary: (1) exact situational awareness, (2) an adequate legal framework, (3) enhanced digital capabilities for law enforcement, and 4) reinforced cooperation with the online platforms and companies.

5. **Adoption of the revised EUIF Rules of Procedure**

⸺ **COM** explained the main changes to the EUIF Rules of Procedure to reflect the expansion of topics and ensure greater transparency. No objections were raised by EUIF in writing prior to the meeting, nor during the meeting. The new RoP were therefore adopted and made available in the EUIF Website.

Next steps

- The **EUIF Ministerial** meeting will likely take place on 4 December (tbc)
- The EUIF will share the full study on algorithmic amplification with EUIF members and will welcome written comments on the deliverables presented in the meeting
- The Commission will share a non-exhaustive overview of hosting service providers that offer their service in the EU and have designated/established legal representatives in the Union, indicating the Member States where the legal representative is located.

Upcoming activities at technical level:
- TCO Implementation workshop in October (tbd)
- EU Crisis Protocol Table Top Exercise facilitated by Europol 9 November