

Subject:

Stop the abolition of digital privacy of correspondence (proposal for regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse)

Dear MEP

The European Parliament is currently negotiating a proposal for regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse. The implementation of this initiative would result in massive indiscriminate screening of all private messages, chats and emails for suspicious content.

In other words, the **regulation results in the abolition of the digital secrecy of correspondence**, which guarantees the confidentiality of online communications as of December 21, 2020 when the European Electronic Communications Code entered into force.

I would like to share with you herewith my utmost concerns about the adoption of this proposed regulation. The fully automated use of so-called "artificial intelligence" for blanket real-time searches of private communications represents a massive violation of fundamental rights. As a consequence, all citizens are potentially suspected of disseminating illegal image and text material without any reason. **However, according to the case law of the European Court of Justice, a permanent and blanket automated search of private communications violates fundamental rights and is thus prohibited ([Case C-511/18](#), para. 192).**

At the same time, automated searches of private communications can have harmful effects on those who are supposed to be protected by the regulation. [Victims of sexual violence have repeatedly emphasized the great importance of confidential communications channels.](#) However, **the introduction of automated real-time monitoring would deprive victims of abuse of precisely these safe spaces for exchange and confidential communication with lawyers and therapists.**

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the dangers of image and text recognition technologies. According to the Swiss Federal Police, 90% of the content flagged by the algorithms is not criminal and shows, for example, holiday photos taken at the beach with playing children. However, even an unjustified criminal investigation can destroy families and lives. In addition, young people will be disproportionately criminalized by the introduction of chat controls. According to German crime statistics, 40% of all investigations for possession of child pornography are targeting minors.

Therefore, I ask you to stand up for the preservation of our fundamental rights also in the digital space and to act against the adoption of the regulation.

Yours sincerely