



PREVENTING THE DISSEMINATION OF TERRORIST CONTENT ONLINE

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The challenge

- Overall terrorist threat picture
- Extensive use of online propaganda by the Islamic State
- Right Wing Violent Extremism and Terrorism on the rise
- The link between online propaganda and terrorist attacks?



EU Internet Forum

- December 2015: internet companies, Member States, Europol, RAN, and academics
- Two key objectives:
 1. Reduce accessibility to terrorist content online
 2. Increase alternative narratives online
- Voluntary initiative



Empowering civil society

- Empowering credible voices to challenge the terrorist narrative and provide positive alternatives;
- Civil Society Empowerment Programme launched in 2017;
- 250 CSOs trained so far to enhance technical expertise;
- Financial support provided;
- 17 projects funded.



Reasons for a regulatory approach

- Terrorist threat
- Continued accessibility of terrorist content online
- Insufficient engagement – potentially 360
- Insufficient response/transparency
- Need for a stable framework in the long term



Balance

- Single Market
- Public security
- Fundamental rights
 - Users' interests
 - Companies' interests



Terrorist Content Online PROPOSAL

MAIN ELEMENTS



Removal orders

- Instrument of binding nature towards the HSP
- Assessment by MS – removal by HSP – in **1 hour**
- Feedback to issuing authority
- Inform MS of jurisdiction when final – trigger proactive measures



Referrals

- Reinforced referral system
- Not only MS law enforcement but also Union bodies
- Removal voluntary against terms & conditions
- Obligation to assess + feedback



Proactive measures

- Overall requirement: be vigilant and assess the risks
- Step-by-step process for companies at risk:
 - Request to report on measures in place
 - Dialogue HSP – national authority
 - No agreement: decision imposing specific proactive measures
 - HSP request to revoke



Safeguards

- Specific safeguards on proactive measures:
human, oversight
- Complaint mechanisms, legal redress
- Transparency:
 - to the public (Terms and Conditions, annual reports)
 - to authorities (Reporting under proactive measures)



Cooperation

- Cooperation on removal orders and referrals
- Cooperation on proactive measures and sanctions
- Dedicated tools and channels, possibly ensured via Europol
- HSPs to inform authorities of terrorist offences



Enforcement

- Legal representative
- Monitoring
- Penalties
 - Proportionate, gravity, previous breaches
 - 4% in specific cases



THANK YOU

countering
powerlessness exclusion help experience practices
European children inclusion borders Commission
terrorist preventive recruiters propaganda security attacks grassroots
information extremist prevent
European networks practitioners preventive multi-agency
vulnerable terrorism help security local
approach together influence community
young online belonging RAN hope
polarisation challenges network lone actor authorities
internet empowerment projects
prevention radicalised policy polarisation
grassroots authorities extreme-right initiatives
extremisme violent employment
disaffection extremist communities
Europol inclusive education
neighbours