

Written Question to Europol

On behalf of MEP Patrick Breyer, We would like to forward to following written questions to Europol:

- a) The Swiss federal police reports that 90% of the child sexual exploitation material reported by NCMEC are not criminally relevant. Europol also maintains a hash database of child sexual exploitation material. Which are the sources of the entries in Europol's database (please list)? Where entries have been provided by national authorities, which were their sources?
- b) Has Europol or another European law enforcement agency reviewed every entry and made sure it is criminally relevant in the EU? If this is not the case, what proportion of the database has been reviewed by European law enforcement officials for criminal relevance?
- c) What are the effects of insufficient law enforcement capacities on children? For which purposes are additional capacities needed most urgently?
- d) Are there indications that the increasing number of NCMEC reports on the circulation of CSEM is diminishing law enforcement capacities for investigating the production of CSEM and other kinds of (physical) child sexual abuse?
- e) Considering limited capacities of law enforcement agencies for investigating child sexual abuse and CSEM, which kind of investigations should be prioritised to protect children?
- f) Does Europol share the view of a German investigator who declared: "Child pornography on the Internet is like the Hydra. If you cut off one of its heads, two new ones grow back. We have lost the battle against child pornography. We only ever catch the stupid consumers or those who send the pictures from A to B. Those who make the big money remain undetected."
<https://www.spiegel.de/netzwelt/web/kinderpornografie-wir-haben-den-kampf-verloren-a-483586.html>
- g) How could the identification of victims of recorded child sexual abuse be improved?
- h) (Physical) child sexual abuse is mostly unreported. What should be done to improve reporting?
- i) How could the primary prevention of child sexual abuse be improved? Is there evidence on which measures have proven successful?

23 February 2021