

ECLAG: Danish Presidency's CSAR proposal sidesteps a cliff-edge and represents a much-needed way forward after a 3-year stalemate

ECLAG acknowledges the political realities that have shaped the Danish Presidency's partial mandate for the Regulation to Prevent and Combat Child Sexual Abuse (CSAR). Progressing this proposal is critical to ensuring children aren't left unprotected.

ECLAG welcomes the progress achieved through the introduction of mandatory risk assessments, the establishment of an EU Centre and the continuation of voluntary detection, which has proven essential in identifying, reporting and removing child sexual abuse online.

However, ECLAG is concerned by the absence of mandatory detection orders and the limited enforceable obligations, critical mechanisms to ensure action when providers fail to act.

At a time when reports of child sexual abuse have reached unprecedented levels – with more than 20 million global reports and over 63 million images and videos identified in 2024 alone – this proposal represents a first step, laying a foundation for a stronger response. The scale and urgency of the current Child Sexual Abuse Crisis demand a framework that does not rely solely on the discretion of private companies.

EU negotiators now face the task of reconciling widely differing positions. In November 2023, [more than 80 organisations and survivors](#) warned that the European Parliament's position represented a significant step backwards. ECLAG urges MEPs, the European Commission, and Member States to continue working toward an effective, long-term, and comprehensive solution – one that combines a permanent legal basis for voluntary detection of all forms of sexual abuse, including grooming, as proposed by the Council, with essential measures such as mandatory mitigation requirements, victim-initiated detection and removal requests, and mandatory obligations for detecting and blocking known child sexual abuse material.

“This proposal avoids the immediate cliff that would have left children unprotected and marks an important step forward after years of delays,” said Isaline Wittorski, spokesperson for ECLAG. *“But continuity alone is not enough given the scale and urgency of the Child Sexual Abuse Crisis. EU negotiators must now combine voluntary action with mandatory obligations to ensure every child is genuinely safe – anything less would fall short of the responsibility we all share.”*

All children have the right to be protected from all forms of sexual abuse. Europe has both an opportunity and a responsibility to lead by example and ensure that the digital environment is safe for children.

*The [European Child sexual abuse Legislation Advocacy Group \(ECLAG\)](#) is a coalition of over 70 child rights NGOs joining forces to fight to protect children from sexual violence and abuse. ECLAG Steering Group is formed by [ECPAT International](#), [Eurochild](#), [Missing Children Europe](#), [Internet Watch Foundation](#), [Terre des Hommes](#) and [Thorn](#).