

ECLAG Reaction to Plenary Vote on Interim Derogation, 11 March 2026

The ECLAG* coalition is **deeply disappointed** by the European Parliament's position on the extension of [the Interim Derogation](#) which allows online providers to detect child sexual abuse content on their platforms. **The EP's proposal is unacceptable, and will undermine child protection** just as a permanent framework is within reach.

Europe is currently facing a Child Sexual Abuse Crisis that is growing more severe with each day that passes. **The EP's proposal creates a critical gap in protection and leaves children exposed to one of the gravest violations of their human rights – an outcome that can and must be avoided.** At the centre of this debate are not abstract legal or political trade-offs, but children's rights, children's safety, and the EU's responsibility to protect children from sexual abuse. **Politics must not get in the way of child safety.**

The European Union must **maintain the current interim protections, in full:**

- **The number one demand from victims is to have their material removed:** not allowing for the detection of new material is, in effect, consenting to its continued spread. The EP proposal provides a roadmap to offenders: target new victims, create new content, and you're invisible.
- **Restricting detection means fewer victims will be identified and supported:** the detection of unidentified material is essential in a rapidly evolving threat landscape. Limiting detection to existing databases will progressively weaken effectiveness.
- **Eliminating grooming detection abandons prevention:** grooming detection enables intervention before abuse escalates to physical exploitation or the production of abusive material.
- The **targeted detection of suspects** in no way tackles the immense scale of the phenomenon online and should only be limited to platforms with negligible risk.

Children are entitled to continuity of protection, not another legal gap. This requires **legal certainty and full extension.** As trialogues on the CSA Regulation continue, limiting the extension of the interim derogation to April 2027 creates a genuine risk of another legal gap.

“This is not the moment to gut the safety tools that have been used to protect children online for more than 10 years. The EU should be doing more, not less, and **we call on policymakers to recognise the urgency of the issue and be ambitious in triologue negotiations to extend the Interim Derogation.** Legislators must ensure that current protections online are maintained while a durable, long-term solution to tackling the child sexual abuse crisis is finalised.”

*The [European Child sexual abuse Legislation Advocacy Group \(ECLAG\)](#) is a coalition of over 80 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 Netherlands](#) and [Thorn](#).