

Brussels. 25. 03. 2019

Daniel Dalton, MEP European Parliament Willy Brandt 05M075 60, rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60 B-1047 Bruxelles/Brussel

Dear Mr Dalton,

We are writing to you as Rapporteur for the Commission's proposal on preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online.

Addressing terrorist content online remains a key challenge in fighting terrorism and preventing radicalisation. Such content has had a role to play in most attacks on European soil in the last two years, whether through incitement to commit an attack, instructions on how to carry it out or glorification of the deadly results. The tragic events in Christchurch, New Zealand on 15 March 2019 show that the threat of terrorism remains a clear and present danger, whether fuelled by far right extremism or other extremist ideologies. The difficulties encountered in trying to remove live-streamed content from Internet platforms and prevent its reappearance for many hours after its initial upload further underlines the vital importance of the Commission's proposal on terrorist content online.

We therefore consider it crucial that the proposed rules for the removal of terrorist content online are agreed by the co-legislators as a matter of urgency. In this respect, we appreciate your work as Rapporteur for this priority file. Precious time has already been lost, but we are encouraged that after an initial delay, you intend to put the draft report for a vote in the LIBE Committee meeting on 1 April.

Assuming a successful vote in the LIBE Committee, it is vital that the European Parliament Plenary confirms the mandate at its part-session on 3-4 April. This would allow the co-legislators to enter into trilogue negotiations as soon as possible on 4 April.

We have been asking internet companies to show responsibility in tackling terrorist content online, but we also need to rise to the occasion. There is still a possibility for the co-legislators to reach agreement on this vital proposal during this mandate of the European Parliament. We therefore urge you to take the necessary steps to that end, in the interest of the security of all citizens. We can assure you once again of our full support in your work.

Yours sincerely

Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS Commissioner for Migration Home Affairs and Citizenship Sir Julian KING Commissioner for the Security Union

Cc: Claude Moraes MEP, Chair LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice & Home Affairs Rachida Dati MEP
Josef Weidenholzer MEP
Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz MEP
Cornelia Ernst MEP
Eva Joly MEP