

A Europe that protects: Countering terrorist content online

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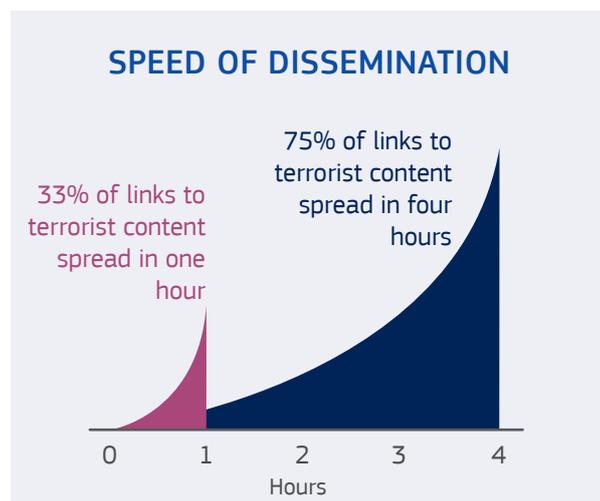
'Leadership is what is needed now. This is notably the case when it comes to completing our Security Union. Europeans rightly expect their Union to keep them safe. This is why the Commission is proposing new rules to get terrorist content off the web within one hour – the critical window in which the greatest damage is done'

Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, Strasbourg, 12 September 2018



The continued presence of terrorist content on the web is a grave risk to citizens and to society at large. Its potential for causing harm is made worse by the speed with which it spreads across platforms. Terrorist content online has played a role in the attacks which have taken place on European soil and beyond. The tragic events in Christchurch, New Zealand as well as in Halle, Germany, are stark reminders of how important it is that this content is removed as quickly as possible.

In September 2018, the Commission proposed new rules to get terrorist content off the web within 1 hour. Given the continuing threat posed by terrorist content online, it is of utmost importance that the European Parliament and the Council reach an agreement on this crucial file by the end of 2019.



The Commission proposal introduces a new approach with clear and transparent rules to ensure that when terrorist content is identified:

- it is taken down as early and as quickly as possible;
- online platforms take measures to ensure that their services cannot be misused and that removed content is not re-uploaded elsewhere;
- citizens' fundamental rights to freedom of expression and information are fully protected.

What is the Commission proposing?



ONE-HOUR RULE

A legally binding 1-hour deadline for content to be removed, following receipt of a removal order issued by national authorities.



BETTER PROTECTED ONLINE PLATFORMS

Online platforms to take proactive measures, proportionate to the level of exposure to terrorist content.



INCREASED COOPERATION

Points of contact designated by online platforms and Member States reachable 24/7.



STRONG SAFEGUARDS

Complaint mechanism and human verification to be set up by online platforms. Judicial remedies to be guaranteed by Member States.



INCREASED TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Annual transparency reports from online platforms and Commission monitoring programme based on actions taken by Member States.



STRONG PENALTIES

Financial penalties of up to 4% of online platforms global turnover for a systematic failure to remove terrorist content online.

How does the new procedure for removing terrorist content work?



1. National authority detects and makes assessment



2. If considered terrorist content, removal order issued to host



3. Host must remove content within 1 hour

- **Right to challenge:** Online platform may appeal the removal order.
- **Obligation to report:** If issued with a removal order, the platform must report on proactive measures taken to address terrorist content online.

To whom will the rules apply?



Once adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, the new rules will apply to all online platforms offering services in the EU, wherever their headquarters are based in the world and irrespective of their size.



Europol's reinforced role: Europol will provide expert support and advice to both Member States and online platforms by facilitating and coordinating Member States efforts to remove terrorist.

Why step up work now?

Terrorist content continues to circulate online, representing a real risk to European citizens. Following the Christchurch attack in New Zealand, Facebook took down 1.5 million copies of the video within 24 hours. The fact that this type of propaganda can be spread rapidly across platforms demands an equally rapid response. Any propaganda that prepares, incites or glorifies acts of terrorism is illegal and must be taken offline.



The 'Database of Hashes' launched by companies within the EU Internet Forum in 2016 contains over 200,000 hashes of known terrorist videos or images.

Over 100,000 examples of terrorist content online flagged since 2015 by the EU Internet Referral Unit at Europol.

Over 360 companies identified as hosting terrorist content according to Europol.