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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: AOB for the meeting of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy of 6
December 2024: Greek National strategy for protection of minors online
- Information from Greece

Greek National strategy for protection of minors online Telecom Council, 6th December 2024

The upcoming national strategy of Greece for the protection of minors online, will be the basis of our efforts to safeguard the online world and provide children and minors with a trustworthy online environment where they are given the same rights, they enjoy everywhere else in their lives. Online activities provide important opportunities for socialization, learning, entertainment, creative expression, and democratic participation.

Alongside the initiatives at EU level to develop advanced age verification and assurance tools, it is imperative to address the root causes of the issue. **This includes the deliberate design of algorithmic systems (as seen especially on major social networking platforms) that encourage addictive behaviors through automated profiling, the exploitation of personal data, and the implementation of manipulative persuasive design strategies, leading sometimes to significant health risks for them.** This happens without the knowledge of those directly affected and even more so without any consent from parents and those who legally exercise custody over them.

Background

Protecting minors and promoting their rights is a key objective for the EU, as set in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. In addition, the EU has worked to prioritise the implementation of children's rights in the online environment. The EU legal and policy framework is constantly evolving to ensure effective child safety online. An increasingly strong body of EU legislation aims to implement and enforce children's rights in the online environment. Indicatively:

- Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 on Artificial Intelligence
 - prohibits schemes that exploit the vulnerabilities of any person because of their age (Article 5) and requires high-risk schemes to consider whether they are likely to adversely affect children (Article 9).
- Regulation (EU) 2024/1183 on a European digital identity (EUDI)
- Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 on digital services (Digital Services Act) , provides for specific protection for minors (Article 28).
- Regulation (EU) 2023/988 on general product safety recognises the health risks posed by digital products, in particular for children.
- General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR)
- Directive 2010/13/EU on Provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive)
- Proposal for a regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse