

Brussels, 25/08/2010
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Mr Martin Preiner
President of the Bundesrat
of the Republic of Austria
A-1017 WIEN

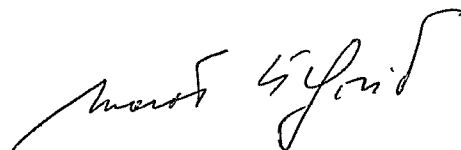
Dear President,

The European Commission thanks the Austrian Bundesrat for sharing its opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating the sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, repealing Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA. We agree that only common action at EU level may be effective to combat these most serious crimes.

The European Commission agrees that the financial impact of prosecution of new forms of crimes and of more extensive protection of victims is difficult to estimate at this stage. However, the Commission points out that it has indeed carried out an estimation of the costs involved in some of the measures proposed, where the financial impact may be most evident. This is the case for free legal counselling and legal representation, individual risk assessment for offenders, offering programmes for offenders or potential offenders, as well as mechanism to block access to websites containing child abuse material¹.

The provisions of Articles 15, 20 and 21 will be subject to detailed analysis in the Council and the European Parliament. The Commission will, certainly take into account the remarks of the Bundesrat during these discussions.

Yours sincerely,



¹ Impact Assessment, p. 26, 35 and 36. Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the proposal of a Council Framework Decision on combating the sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, repealing Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA. SEC(2009) 355.