



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.2.2019
C(2019) 1554 final*

Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Cortes Generales for their Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online {COM(2018) 640 final}.

Preventing and countering terrorism both offline and online is a priority for the Commission and the proposal complements the work of the European Union Internet Forum to reduce access to terrorist content online. Despite the progress achieved through voluntary cooperation, terrorist content online remains a clear and present danger to our society. Terrorist propaganda is spread across multiple platforms, increasingly smaller ones, and disseminated at great speed.

To address these challenges, the Commission proposal aims at preventing the misuse of hosting services for terrorist purposes, protecting the security of our citizens and ensuring the smooth functioning of the digital single market. The proposal establishes a definition of terrorist content for preventative purposes and sets obligations on hosting service providers to act upon removal orders and referrals and to put in place proportionate proactive measures. The proposal also sets out strong and robust safeguards to ensure the protection of fundamental rights, in particular freedom of speech.

The Commission is pleased that the Cortes Generales share the view that action at Union level, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, is required to prevent the spread of terrorist content in an effective manner.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*

*Ms Ana PASTOR
President of the
Congreso de los Diputados
Floridablanca s/n
E – 28071 MADRID*

*Mr Pio GARCÍA-ESCUADERO MÁRQUEZ
President of the Senado
Plaza de la Marina Española, 8
E – 28071 MADRID*