



Luxembourg,
CNECT.G.3/

Mandate of the Expert Group on Safer Internet for Children

Current trends, such as the ever growing connectivity, the availability of more content online, the fact that children go online at an ever younger age and the emergence of new human-computer interactions, have a significant impact on the need to protect and empower minors, and call for appropriate responses at national and European level.

Over the last years, several legal instruments have been adopted at EU level that have a direct impact on the protection of minors online.

This Expert Group will provide a forum to support the ongoing work in MS to ensure that they consistently address the challenges of child online safety, where all the Member States/national authorities discuss practical implementation issues related to the current regulatory framework and exchange good public sector practices.

In particular, the Expert Group will:

- a) Advise the Commission on fora and measures already available¹ in this field, and measures and models to overcome fragmentation and support a coordinated implementation of the existing instruments.
- b) Inform the Commission on practices on the application of existing/recent legislation and on any related emerging issues as technology threatens to overtake legislation
- c) Inform the Commission on the challenges and needs arising at the national and European level in the context of child online safety. It will focus in particular on the content protection measures such as age rating and parental controls, protecting children from harmful content, protecting children from unfair commercial practices related to online advertising and preventing direct exhortations to children online as well as actions taken to limit illegal and harmful content online.
- d) Assist the Commission in monitoring developments regarding the implementation of policies and strategies at the national level.
- e) Exchange good practices and promote dialogue among Member States on child online safety; encourage coordination and synergies between national and EU policies.

¹ A starting point is the BIK Policy Map available at
<https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/web/portal/policy/bikmap>