

Emily Slifer
Director of Policy (Brussels-based)
Thorn
222 N. Pacific Coast Highway, 10th floor
El Segundo, CA 90245
USA

Juan Fernando López Aguilar
Parlement européen
Bât. ALTIERO SPINELLI
14G305
60, rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60
B-1047 Bruxelles/Brussel

Brussels, Monday the 2nd of October

Dear Honorable Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Chairman of the LIBE Committee,

I am writing following your letter to Commissioner Ylva Johansson, in which you inquired about allegations on the Commission's proposal. You mention multiple tech companies, foundations and security agencies, and you also mention Thorn specifically. We would like to share with you our perspective on the allegations regarding Thorn, which are unfounded.

1. Thorn is a nonprofit organisation that builds tools to defend children from sexual abuse. We only have one objective: making the online world a safe space for children.
2. As a nonprofit organization, and as mandated by our charter, we cannot and do not operate for profit.
3. Thorn makes its tools available to technology companies, often small to medium in size, that do not typically have the necessary capabilities to combat child sexual abuse on their platforms. The compensation granted for our support by these platforms does not generate profits for us. This amount does not even cover all of our programs and initiatives.
4. We depend heavily on donations to develop and improve the sophisticated technological solutions necessary to defend child sexual abuse in the digital age.
5. Thorn strongly believes that the European Union is set to establish a new global standard for child protection. We work at the intersection between child protection and tech development. Thorn stands ready to continue sharing this unique expertise with all stakeholders involved in shaping the future legislative framework in Europe, including Members of the European Parliament, Member States, and the European Commission. We do so transparently and in accordance with rules and codes of ethical interest representation.

We believe it is of utmost importance to have a reliable framework in place to prevent children from being sexually abused online. Technology is fundamental to any solution to prevent and fight this crime. Our sole purpose is to eradicate child sexual abuse online and to defend children from sexual abuse.

I am offering to meet you and any of your colleagues to answer any questions you might have in the format you should decide.

I remain at your disposal.

Best regards,



Emily Slifer