



Rachida DATI

Ancien Ministre

Député européen

Maire du VIIème arrondissement de Paris

Brussels, 27th of February 2019

Dear colleague,

The regulation on the prevention of the dissemination of terrorist content online we are currently working on is a crucial tool to strengthen the fight against terrorism and the prevention of radicalisation in Europe. The past terrorist attacks have proved that the Internet is used for propaganda and the apology of terrorism.

Before our next shadow meeting, some points must be underlined.

This regulation has been proposed by the Commission several years after the adoption of my report on the prevention of radicalisation and recruitment of European citizens by terrorist organisations in 2015 - calling for such a legislation. Originally, the Commission wanted to work with the hosting service providers on a cooperation basis. The presentation of this regulation is the result of insufficient commitment and actions from the different Internet platforms. Clearly, a binding regulation involving all online platforms exposed to terrorist content has become urgent.

I am sure that the European Parliament can stand up for itself, and can defend a strong line during the negotiations. What we want is an efficient tool to effectively prevent terrorist organizations from using online platforms to spread their violent ideology.

This is why I call on the Parliament **to support the delay of one hour** to execute a removal order. This is not about making a political statement but about sending a firm signal to protect our citizens. Any compromise that would delete this short delay would undermine the purpose and the effects of this regulation. I have heard and understood the concerns of the different stakeholders, namely the SMEs. Yet, I believe we can find compromises to balance this regulation and make sure of its applicability while keeping this one-hour delay.

I also strongly support the proposal on **proactive measures** for the hosting service providers exposed to terrorist content. The fight against terrorism requires every actors to take all the necessary measures to tackle terrorist content. While respecting the e-commerce directive, the Internet platforms have to get involved in this common effort. The last years have proved that with technological development the big platforms such as Google, Facebook and Twitter have achieved good results in this direction.

Finally, once again, I would like to insist **on the importance of the calendar**. We must vote on this report before the end of the mandate. Any further delay in its adoption would not only be a serious political mistake, but also an affront to all our citizens asking for the European Union to protect them.

I am looking forward to further discuss these issues with you during our next meeting. I am confident that our discussions will lead to a strong regulation striking a good balance between the reinforcement of security in Europe and the protection of fundamental rights.

Sincerely yours,

Rachida DATI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RD' followed by a stylized flourish.