Open letter to EU member states from consumer groups, NGOs and industry representatives in support of the ePrivacy Regulation

December 3rd, 2018











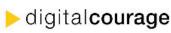


























































Qwant











Dear Minister,

We, the undersigned organisations, support the much-needed efforts to reform Europe's ePrivacy legislation. The reform is essential to strengthen individuals' right to privacy and confidentiality of communications across the EU as well as rebuilding and reinforcing public trust and security in the digital economy.

As representatives of consumers groups, NGOs and industry, we are concerned by the lack of progress of the Council of the EU towards finalising a General Approach on the draft ePrivacy Regulation. We urgently call on you to reach an agreement, so that the legislative process can continue without undue delay.

Ever since discussions on the reform were launched nearly two years ago, the Council has made very little progress. This weak progress is happening despite the clear and urgent need to strengthen privacy and security of electronic communications in the online environment, in the wake of repeated scandals and practices putting people's rights at risk and undermining the image of the industry as a whole.

The reform of the ePrivacy framework is necessary to deliver effective confidentiality and security of modern online communications, to ensure clarity of the legal framework, and to restore public trust in the digital economy. A strong ePrivacy Regulation represents an opportunity for EU businesses and it will support privacy innovation in the Digital Single Market. The current surveillance-driven business model of a few large players is not only distorting the advertising and other online markets but also severely undermining the fundamental rights of people living in the European Union and endangering our democracy. Undermining or further slowing down the reform at this stage would send the wrong message to people and industry: they expect the EU to protect their rights and interests against practices that undermine the security and confidentiality of online communications. It is high time to act.

As you meet tomorrow to discuss the reform, we urge you to conclude the negotiations to deliver an upgraded and improved ePrivacy Regulation for individuals and businesses. We stand ready to support your work.

Industry

Yours sincerely,

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Access Now	Brave
ApTI - Association for Technology and	Kantara
Internet	Lavabit
BEUC - The European Consumer	Piwik PRO
Organisation	ProtonMail

Civil society and consumer groups

Bits of Freedom

CILD - Coalizione Italiana Libertà e Diritti

Civili

Chaos Computer Club

D3 - Defesa dos Direitos Digitais

Dataskydd.net Digitalcourage

Electronic Frontier Norway

Electronic Frontier Finland

Epicenter.works

European Digital Rights

Fitug

Frënn vun der Ënn

Homo Digitalis

Hermes Center

Initiative für Netzfreiheit

IT-Pol - IT-Political Association of Denmark

luRe

Open Rights Group

Panoptykon Foundation

Privacy International

Vrijschrift

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