



Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety

9th September, 2008

I am writing to seek your support for an amendment which has been tabled to the ePrivacy Directive (Directive 2002/58/EC) currently being considered as part of the Telecoms Package review. Amendment 130¹ of the Harbour report is vital to ensuring European children remain secure online by introducing clear exceptions to allow for the computer security industry to process traffic data for network and information security purposes.

Without this amendment CHIS would be concerned that the effectiveness of a range of online security products, such as firewalls, anti-virus software and filtering software designed specifically to help protect children and young people, might be constrained or reduced and this would leave European citizens of all ages more vulnerable to attack.

Users, particularly home users and parents, currently place a great deal of trust in the computer security industry to provide them with appropriate security tools and solutions. For the security industry to ensure these tools are kept up to date and working at optimum efficiency, they need to be able to collect and process traffic data. This is technical information used to convey messages over the internet and having it enables security providers to react quickly and effectively to emerging threats, such as computer viruses, trojans and various kinds of malware. Time is of the essence when a new attack develops. Sweeping up afterwards is very definitely an inferior option.

If security providers are not able to process traffic data and are prevented from proactively detecting and blocking the further progress of online threats, parental confidence in the internet as a whole would be significantly undermined and the utility of the security companies' products – their ability to maintain the highest possible level of online security – would also be greatly reduced therefore exposing children and young people, indeed all of us, to a larger range of online threats.

¹ **Amendment 130 of Harbour report for Directive 2002/58/EC** : Traffic data may be processed by any natural or legal person for the purpose of implementing technical measures to ensure the security of a public electronic communication service, a public or private electronic communications network, an information society service, or related terminal and electronic communication equipment. Such processing must be restricted to what is strictly necessary for the purposes of such security activity.

I therefore urge you to support amendment 130 and enable the security industry to continue to protect and empower online users. Your support will ensure that children all across Europe will be able to be protected as they continue to explore the online world we are encouraging them to journey into and gain the full opportunities and benefits the internet has to offer.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Carr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

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John Carr
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