

# Against commercial sexual exploitation of children online

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This important coalition and partnership between Law Enforcement, Industry and NGO's is chaired by the Head of the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) Mr. Troels Oerting.

The Coalition has substantial support and funding from the European Commission, DG Home, and Missing Children Europe who also act as an efficient secretariat for the EFC.

At present the following agencies, companies or NGO's are members of the EFC Steering Group (SG):

- EC3 (EFC Chair)
- Dutch National Police,
- Google,
- Microsoft,
- PayPal,
- MasterCard,
- Visa Europe,
- INHOPE,
- Eurojust,
- Missing Children Europe (EFC Secretariat)
- ICMEC (Advisory Member)

In yesterday's second Steering Group meeting after the official launch last year, the SG agreed on the initiation of a 'fast track' procedure to allow Western Bank Union, American Express, WebShield, Terre des Hommes and CEPOL to become members of EFC based on their expression of interest. These new members will become valuable assets in the continued work of the EFC, which is carried out in 5 different Work Packages (WP) as follows:

**WP1: Operations:** *Support international law enforcement investigations; wherever possible through cooperation with private stakeholders.* This Work is led by the EC3 and Eurojust and supported by high level representatives from Dutch, Italian, Swiss, Swedish, UK (Ceop) police and Denmark is also considering joining.

WP2: **Strategic analysis:** *Assess and study the commercial child sexual exploitation on the Internet through all kinds of Internet environments: hosting services, newsgroups, etc.* This work is led by EC3 and INHOPE and draws on all available sources in- and outside law enforcement.

WP3: **Private sector support and cooperation:** *Protect legitimate private business interests from possible misuse of their services perpetrated by criminals with the aim of distributing child sexual abuse content through different information and communication technologies.* This work is led by Microsoft and PayPal.

WP4: **Training:** *Empower law enforcement authorities and private companies in counteracting the problem through the delivery of training and sharing of resources.* This work is led by Dutch National Police, MasterCard and Microsoft.

WP5: **External relations and awareness:** *Inform decision makers and raise awareness among the public about the EFC's activities.* This work is led by Visa Europe and Missing Children Europe.

The above work packages are already on track and concrete results expected in the future.

During the meeting many initiatives were discussed. Based on information collected by the EC3, a new and disturbing trend amongst pedophiles seems to be emerging, namely live streaming of rape and sexual abuse of children by perpetrators in Asia to 'audiences' in US and Europe, who pay for these services.

The next meeting of this important coalition is planned for June and by then a new update will be published showing further progress and more results!