

Online privacy and safety

Common EU rules guarantee a high standard of privacy online. The EU is committed to ensuring citizens, and particularly children, are safe online.



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ePrivacy

Each time we go online, we are entrusting our personal information to the websites we use and to the companies that provide us with the Internet. This information can range from our names and contact details, to our likes and dislikes, to our credit card information.

EU-wide rules can help protect our data when we browse the Internet. The EU is currently discussing new privacy rules that build trust and security online for the Digital Decade. The rules will give us greater control over our data and devices. And, they will update current ePrivacy rules to cover new forms of communication online.

New ePrivacy rules go hand in hand with other EU initiatives to ensure our privacy online. For example, the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) ensures our personal data can only be gathered under strict conditions and for legitimate purposes.

A better Internet for children

Around one in three Internet users is a child. Children are accessing content online at younger and

younger ages.

While there are excellent opportunities for learning and creativity online, there are also risks. Children may be exposed to fake news, cyberbullying, privacy breaches, harmful content and grooming.

The EU launched its Strategy for a Better Internet for Children with the aim of introducing specific measures for young people online.

To create a better internet for children, the Commission has set goals to:

- encourage more creative and educational content for children
- foster awareness and empowerment through digital literacy and online safety courses
- create a safe environment through age appropriate privacy settings and parental controls
- tackle child sexual abuse and exploitation online

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Commission welcomes political agreement to boost data sharing and support European data spaces

The Commission welcomes the political agreement reached between the European Parliament and EU Member States on a European Data Governance

Act.

DIGIBYTE | 20 October 2021

The European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and Network: Commission issues guidelines for evaluation of National Coordination Centers' capacity to manage EU funds

The Commission has adopted guidelines for evaluation of National Coordination Centres ('NCCs') capacity to manage EU funds. This is a new step in the implementation of the Regulation establishing a new Cybersecurity Competence Centre and Network. The Network will be constituted of 27 National Coordination Centres, one from each Member State, to boost research excellence and the competitiveness of the Union in this field.

PRESS RELEASE | 18 October 2021

EU-US Trade and Technology Council: Commission launched consultation platform for stakeholder's involvement to shape transatlantic cooperation

The Commission launched this week an online consultation platform on the EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC), allowing stakeholders to share their views and provide common proposals on the work ahead.

PRESS RELEASE | 30 September 2021

Trade and Technology Council: Inaugural meeting agrees on important deliverables and outlines areas for future EU-US cooperation

At the first meeting of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) in Pittsburgh, the EU and the US agreed on concrete deliverables and outlined the future scope of work. Notably, the EU and the US committed to cooperating closely on shared priorities such as export controls, foreign investment screening, critical and emerging technology standards including Artificial Intelligence, and secure supply chains including on

semiconductors. They also agreed to work together on important global trade issues, such as the challenges posed by non-market economies and trade-related climate and environment

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The strategy for a better Internet for children provides actions to empower young people as they

explore the digital world.

Digital privacy

The ePrivacy Directive and the General Data Protection Regulation help ensure digital privacy for EU citizens.

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