

Media advisory – Press briefing ahead of Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) of 6 May 2021



Press briefing

The press briefing ahead of the Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) will take place on **Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 14:00** by an EEAS senior official

This briefing is “off the record”.

Please note that this press briefing will take place remotely.

In order to participate and ask questions, EU accredited journalists should register using [this link](#).

Those who already registered for previous press briefing of Foreign Affairs Council meeting earlier this year do not need to do it again.

Deadline for registration: Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 13:00.

Further instructions will be sent to all registered participants shortly after the deadline.

[Visit the meeting page](#)

ESA's Joint Board of Appeal dismissed appeal by Societatea de Asigurare-Reasigurare City Insurance SA against the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority

The Joint Board of Appeal of the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs – European Banking Authority, European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority, and European Securities and Markets Authority) unanimously decided that the appeal brought by Societatea de Asigurare-Reasigurare City Insurance SA against the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) is inadmissible.

The appeal was brought in relation to a balance sheet review (BSR) exercise of the Romanian insurance sector that is carried out by the [Autoritatea de Supraveghere Financiară](#) with the support of EIOPA.

Central to this appeal is the question if, and to what extent the appellant can challenge EIOPA's role and its involvement in the Romanian BSR exercise via an appeal under Article 60 of the EIOPA Regulation. After careful consideration, the Board of Appeal unanimously decided that the appeal is inadmissible. The entire decision is available [here](#).

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4 arrested in takedown of dark web child abuse platform with some half a million users



Four have been arrested in a multi-agency operation sparked by a German investigation into one of Europe's most prolific child sexual abuse platforms on the dark web.

These arrests were made in Germany (3) and Paraguay (1) earlier this month. The arrested individuals – all German nationals, had various roles in relation to the site seized.

The dark web platform, known as Boystown, has been taken down by an international taskforce set up by the German Federal Criminal Police (Bundeskriminalamt) which included Europol and law enforcement agencies from the Netherlands, Sweden, Australia, Canada and the United States.

This site focused on the sexual abuse of children and had 400 000 registered users when it was taken down. Several other chat sites on the dark web used by child sexual offenders were also seized on the same occasion.

The case illustrates what Europol is seeing in child sexual abuse offending: online child offender communities on the dark web exhibit considerable resilience in response to law enforcement actions targeting them. Their reactions include resurrecting old communities, establishing new communities, and making strong efforts to organise and administer them.

The image and video data seized during this investigation will be used for Victim Identification Taskforces organised on a regular basis at Europol. More arrests and rescues are to be expected globally as police worldwide examine the intelligence packages compiled by Europol.

The following authorities took part in this investigation:

- **Germany:** Federal Criminal Police (Bundeskriminalamt)
 - **The Netherlands:** National Police (Politie)
 - **Sweden:** National Police (Polisen)
 - **Australia:** Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Queensland Police Service (QPS)
 - **United States:** Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 - **Canada:** Royal Canadian Mounted Police
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[Europe Day: discover the European Union on the occasion of 9 May 2021](#)



□□□□ For Europe Day (9 May) this year, the EU institutions are throwing open their ‘virtual’ doors so that citizens across Member States can find out more about the European Union and what it does despite the pandemic. The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) will publish animated video about its premises, role and functioning. An [‘all EU-institution’ Europe Day portal](#) presents the various bodies and activities. By hovering over a country on the portal’s interactive [map](#), visitors will be able to find out what is going on close to them. Citizens will also be able to visit and interact with the EU institutions, such as the [European Parliament](#), [Council](#), the [Commission](#) and the [European External Action Service](#). A virtual, immersive space will allow citizens to play games online, watch engaging videos and test their knowledge on the EU in general, as well as on themes related to a green and digital Europe. In this respect the CoR will let people test their knowledge about European regions and cities through a photo quiz on [Instagram](#).

With a click, users can take part in online debates on EU topics and explore other online events. Through this portal and the recently launched [multilingual digital platform](#) for the Conference of the Future of Europe, citizens can engage with the EU and help shape its future. The Conference on the Future of Europe will also be officially launched on 9 May, at an online/hybrid event in Strasbourg. Citizens of all generations across Europe and the world are invited to join this unique Europe Day experience. For general information on Europe Day and the Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950 please see [here](#).

For information on CoR activities, see [here](#).