



News

26 March 2021 (Issue 06/21)

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EU: Parliament urged to reject online content rules that pose "serious threats to freedom of expression and opinion"

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Our reports

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26 March 2021

[Denmark: Reject discriminatory "Security for all Danes" Act and respect freedom of assembly](#)

Open letter signed by 36 organisations including Statewatch, coordinated by the European Civic Forum.

25 March 2021

[EU: Parliament urged to reject online content rules that pose "serious threats to freedom of expression and opinion"](#)

More than 60 human rights and journalism organisations (including Statewatch) have signed an open letter to MEPs calling on them to vote against the proposed Regulation on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online, which includes measures that would seriously undermine freedom of expression and opinion, freedom to access information, right to privacy and the rule of law.

25 March 2021

[EU: Pushbacks scandal: Internal letters shed light on Frontex's fundamental rights recruitment failures](#)

As the work of the European Parliament's working group scrutinising Frontex continues, we are publishing correspondence shared with the group by Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson. The documents shed new light on the dispute between the Commission and Frontex over the agency's controversial attempts to recruit new staff for its Fundamental Rights Office.

24 March 2021

[EU: Tracking the Pact: Tunisia and other North African states targeted for new action on migration, asylum and more](#)

Two papers circulated by the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU give an insight into ongoing discussions and activities geared towards implementing the Pact on Migration and Asylum in North Africa, covering issues such as cooperation on asylum, border control and law enforcement.

24 March 2021

[Immigration and asylum round-up: 2-24 March 2021](#)

Our latest summary of developments and new material on immigration and asylum in Europe

24 March 2021

[EU-USA: Action against encrypted communications to be discussed at senior officials' meeting in April](#)

The next high-level justice and home affairs meeting between the EU and USA will include a discussion point on "challenges related to encryption and lawful interception," with both sides keen to find a way to grant law enforcement agencies access to encrypted communications technologies - something that experts have warned time and again is impossible without fundamentally compromising those technologies for all users.

23 March 2021

[UK: New charter demands police chiefs commit to protecting freedom of assembly](#)

Last Friday hundreds of people joined an online day of action organised by the Network for Police Monitoring (Netpol), calling on the National Police Chiefs Council to commit to protecting freedom of assembly by adopting an eleven-point charter.

22 March 2021

[UK: Protect the right to protest during lockdown, says Joint Committee on Human Rights](#)

The government should ensure that the right to protest is protected by the emergency measures brought in to restrict the spread of coronavirus, says a report published last week by the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR), made up of MPs and members of the House of Lords.

19 March 2021

[EU: One step closer to the establishment of the 'permission-to-travel' scheme](#)

The Council and Parliament have reached provisional agreement on rules governing how the forthcoming European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) will 'talk' to other migration and policing databases, with the purpose of conducting automated searches on would-be travellers to the EU.

17 March 2021

[EU: Ireland joins the Schengen Information System](#)

The Irish authorities are now part of the Schengen Information System's police cooperation aspects, allowing them to enter and search data on a wide variety of persons and objects.

16 March 2021

[Libya key to EU plan to build a "big wall" against migration, says new report](#)

Libya lies at the heart of a strategy for which funds from Italy, EU institutions and other member states have been channelled through an opaque financing mechanism with the central aim of reducing migration from Africa to Europe, says a new report by ActionAid.

15 March 2021

[EU: More powers for Europol: what does your government think?](#)

Proposals published in December could vastly increase the powers of EU policing agency Europol, in particular by granting it new data-processing powers, a role in developing algorithms and new technologies for the police, and by easing cooperation with non-EU states. EU member states have been discussing the proposals since January. To facilitate democratic engagement and scrutiny, Statewatch is publishing internal Council documents that set out the member states' comments on the proposals so far.

Other reports

18 March 2021

[UK: Arrest of legal observers "an attack on vital community movements that hold the police to account"](#)

The organisation Black Protest Legal Support has condemned the arrest of four of their legal observers at a demonstration on Tuesday against the proposed Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

25 March 2021

[Spain: More than 1,700 people lost their lives trying to reach Spain in 2020, the highest figure ever recorded](#)

The Andalusian Association for Human Rights criticises the “vast resources” given to preventing migration, in contrast with the “absolute lack of investment in reception.” There was a 756% increase in arrivals in the Canary Islands in 2020.

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