SIRIUS Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE #3 JUL-SEP 2026

Contact us

Published on 30 September 2026

News on E-Evidence and Online Investigations

Europe

Sensitive UK police data vulnerable to 'compromise' by US government and foreign actors
The Guardian, 18 September 2026

Official UK security assessment found Microsoft cloud platform storing files was at potential risk from hostile hackers. (Read more)

SIRIUS SPoC network meets as EU enters new era for electronic evidence
EUROPOL, 17 September 2026

The 7th SIRIUS Single Point of Contact (SPoC) Network Meeting, organised by Europol's EU Internet Referral Unit (EU IRU) together with the German Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt), took place in Berlin on 15-16 September 2026.

The event brought together 70 representatives from law enforcement authorities from across Europe and 50 representatives from 29 different global service providers to address the increasingly complex and evolving landscape of cross-border access to electronic evidence. This year's SPoC Network Meeting focused on the EU e-Evidence Legislative Package. (Read more)

EU KIDS Act to restrict social media platforms' access to children in the EU
European Commission, 17 September 2026

The European Commission has adopted the EU KIDS Act to enhance the online safety of children throughout the Union.

The proposal prohibits social media platforms from accessing children under the age of 13 and sets an EU-wide minimum age for minors to open an account of their own at the age of 15, thereby ensuring a gradual approach. The KIDS Act also reverses the burden of proof. Now, service providers will have to show that their services are age-appropriate and safe by design. (Read more)

Commission designates ChatGPT, Reddit, Roblox under Digital Services Act
European Commission, 31 August 2026

Today, the Commission has designated ChatGPT as a Very Large Online Search Engine (VLOSE), as well as Reddit and Roblox as Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs), under the Digital Services Act (DSA). These services declared that they reach at least 45 million average monthly users in the EU and thus meet the threshold for designation. (Read more)

PUBLICATIONS

SIRIUS Electronic Evidence Situation Report 2025 and respective factsheets on EU and non-EU Judicial Authorities' Perspective, Law Enforcement Authorities' Perspective and Service Providers' Perspective

SIRIUS Project (August 2026)

Available here

Horizon scanning on emerging privacy enhancement technologies

Europol & Joint Research Centre (European Commission) (September 2026)

Available here

OTHER RESOURCES

European Commission's dedicated page for developments related to the EU e-evidence legislative package

Available here

EUROJUST EUROPOL

Public information

The Sirius Project has received funding from the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) under contribution agreement NDICI/2024/700002618.

Anna Morgan and Alex Guard: Ireland's new law to implement the EU e-Evidence Package comes into force tomorrow
Irish Legal News, 17 August 2026

On 15 July 2026, the Criminal Justice (International Cooperation on Electronic Evidence and Other Matters) Act 2026 (the Act) was signed into Irish law. The Act implements the EU e-Evidence Package which will bring seismic changes to the existing EU regime for access to electronic evidence (e-evidence) by law enforcement authorities. The new regime for e-evidence, which comes into force tomorrow, will also have significant operational ramifications for hundreds of Irish-based businesses. (Read more)

EU coordinates fact-checkers with Meta and TikTok to avoid another online-fuelled Ceuta crisis
Euronews, 11 August 2026

TikTok and Meta have agreed to join a voluntary coordination mechanism chaired by the European Commission with fact-checkers, following the spread of disinformation online that fuelled the mass crossings in the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, in which around 100 people died. (Read more)

Commission preliminarily finds TikTok in breach of Digital Services Act for failing to ensure safe accounts for minors
European Commission, 24 July 2026

On TikTok, minors can choose to set their account as 'public'. This means that any user, including those without a TikTok account, may be able to view minors' content. This setting also allows content published by 'older' minors (16-17 years old) to be recommended to any other TikTok user through the *For You Feed.* (Read more)

Fighting child sexual abuse online: interim measure protecting children now reinstated
Council of the EU, 23 July 2026

Today, the Council gave its final green light to a regulation allowing online service providers to resume voluntary detection and removal of child sexual abuse material on their platforms. The measure is temporary and aims to protect children while a long-term legislative framework is under negotiation. (Read more)

Commission preliminarily finds the addictive design of Instagram and Facebook in breach of the Digital Services Act
European Commission, 10 July 2026

The European Commission has preliminarily found Meta in breach of the Digital Services Act for the addictive design of Instagram and Facebook.

The investigation focuses on features such as infinite scroll, autoplay, push notifications, and the platforms' highly personalised recommender systems. (Read more)

Combating child sexual abuse online: support for more limited ePrivacy derogation
European Parliament, 09 July 2026

In today's vote on a derogation from ePrivacy rules for the purpose of detecting child sexual abuse online, MEPs adopted amendments to the Council position.

They want to exclude "communications to which end-to-end encryption is, has been or will be applied" from the scope of the law. (Read more)

The Sirius Project has received funding from the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) under contribution /agreement NDICI/2024/700002618.

Worldwide

Timor-Leste signs UN Convention against Cybercrime and Civil Rights Protocol
In Diplomacy, 29 September 2026

Timor-Leste signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in New York on 24 September 2026. (Read more)

India signs UN Cybercrime Convention At UN General Assembly
BW BUSINESSWORLD, 29 September 2026

The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime on Friday, backing a multilateral framework aimed at strengthening international cooperation against cybercrime and building a safer digital environment. (Read more)

Indonesia signs UN Convention against Cybercrime
Antara, 25 September 2026

Indonesia has signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, joining 90 other parties in endorsing the United Nations' first global framework designed to combat cross-border digital offenses. (Read more)

Madagascar Overhauls Cybercrime Framework and Eyes UN Convention
We are tech africa, 02 September 2026

Madagascar is preparing to overhaul its cybercrime framework. On Friday, August 28, the government submitted to the National Assembly a bill designed to update rules governing offenses committed in the digital environment. It also submitted a bill authorizing the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime. Both texts have entered the parliamentary process. (Read more)

Chasing Surveillance Powers, Canada Risks the CLOUD Act Deal It Needs
Lawfare, 17 August 2026

Some officials in Canada are again chasing new electronic surveillance powers, as they have episodically for decades, most recently repackaged in Bill C-22, entitled "An Act respecting lawful access." The proposals have changed names over time, but the pattern remains familiar. New powers are said to be necessary, while the public case for them rests mostly on overgeneralized anecdotes. There is, however, one real problem that is long-standing, demonstrable, and acute. As information has become increasingly digital and increasingly held by U.S. providers, Canadian law enforcement and security agencies have had to rely on slow and limited diplomatic mechanisms with the United States to secure important evidence. (Read more)

Apple issues new challenge against UK order for access to private user data
BBC, 04 August 2026

Apple has confirmed it has launched a new legal complaint against the UK government at a court that deals with objections to the use of covert surveillance powers. (Read more)

Every phone leaves a trail – Supreme Court holds location data is protected by the Fourth Amendment
Reuters, 15 July 2026

In June 29, 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its long-awaited decision in Chatrie v. United States, holding that when law enforcement "accesses historical cell phone" location information from a provider, it conducts a search under the Fourth Amendment. In doing so, the Court significantly extended its 2018 opinion in Carpenter v. United States. (Read more)

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