

Google: YouTube is so overloaded staff cannot filter content

January 28 2015, by Lorne Cook



ALDE President Guy Verhofstadt, center, EU Counter-Terrorism chief Gilles de Kerchove, 2nd right, and Public Policy manager of Google Verity Harding attend a meeting of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) on a counter-terrorism action plan, at the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. (AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

Internet giant Google said Wednesday that its video-sharing website YouTube is so inundated that staff cannot filter all terror related content, complicating the struggle to halt the publication of terrorist propaganda

and hostage videos.

Google Public Policy Manager Verity Harding said that about 300 hours of [video](#) material is being uploaded to YouTube every minute, making it virtually impossible for the company to filter all images.

Harding spoke at a European Parliament meeting of the ALDE liberal group on a counter-terrorism action plan.

She said that "to pre-screen those videos before they are uploaded would be like screening a phone call before it's made."

The European Union's counter-terror chief believes it's time to help companies to contain the security risk by having experts from member states flagging terror-related content.

"We have to help them, and refer to them, and signal content," Gilles De Kerchove said. "Each member state should have a unit with people trained to do that."

On YouTube, users can highlight problem videos and have them reviewed by a member of staff.

When a Scotland Yard unit recently told Google about material that did not comply with the company's own guidelines, De Kerchove said 93 percent of that content was removed. But when individuals flag up problems only a third of it is taken down.

Detecting violent, extreme and racist material is a mammoth task. But concerted, targeted warnings from organized groups work best.



Members of European Parliament arrive to discuss anti-terrorism measures during a plenary session at the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. (AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

"There are community groups and others who do this on a larger scale and they're incredibly helpful to us," Harding said.

Despite the serious threat posed by extreme and violent videos, neither the big Internet companies nor the European Union appear willing to take on a legal battle to enforce their removal.

"We can contemplate legislation but I suspect it would be an awfully monumental exercise," De Kerchove said.



ALDE President Guy Verhofstadt, center, talks as he sits next to EU Counter-Terrorism chief Gilles de Kerchove, right, during a meeting of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) on a counter-terrorism action plan, at the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. (AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

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