Closing Remarks – Marianthe Stavridou

Thank you for your time and your attention this evening. A sincere thanks to our speakers for illuminating the profound dangers of the ChatControl proposal—not just the technical flaws, but the deep threat it poses to our fundamental rights.

If we take one thing from this briefing, let it be this: ChatControl is not a simple update to our security laws. It is a paradigm shift. It is the architecture for a system of mass surveillance that would centralize power and data on an unprecedented scale.

We are told this system is necessary to find needles in a haystack. But their solution is not to use a better magnet. Their solution is to build a much bigger haystack and then put a government agent in every single home, reading every single letter, listening to every single conversation, just in case something might be wrong.

This turns the principle of 'innocent until proven guilty' on its head. And it does so by creating the most dangerous thing a democracy can build: a centralized, unaccountable system of control.

This is the core of the issue. It's about centralization.

- Centralization of data: It funnels our most intimate private moments into a single, hackable, abusable system.
- Centralization of power: It gives a few entities the god-like power to scrutinize the entire population.

And history's lesson is clear: such concentrated power always, always corrupts. What is sold to us today as a tool to protect children will be used tomorrow for other purposes: to monitor protesters, to track journalists, to silence dissent. The slope is not slippery; it is a cliff we are being asked to jump from.

But we are here to say: we refuse to jump.

We reject this false choice between privacy and safety. We can protect children without building a surveillance state. We can empower law enforcement with targeted, warrant-based investigations without resorting to mass control. True security comes from empowering people, not from centralizing power over them.

This is why our action tonight is so critical. This is not a niche technical debate. It is a fight for the soul of our digital future—a choice between a future of centralized control and a future of individual freedom.

So, what do we do? We act.

- First, get informed. Visit chatcontrol.eu and stopscanningme.eu. Understand the argument against centralization and make it yours.
- Second, raise your voice. The key decision-makers are the Members of the European Parliament. Use the tools on these websites. Email them. Tell them you are a constituent and you vehemently oppose the creation of this centralized surveillance system. Sent messages to your MEPs fightchatcontrol.eu

- Third, amplify this message. Share what you learned. Talk to friends. Use hashtags like **#ChatControl** and **#StopScanningMe**. Break this complex issue down for others. This is a movement of citizens, and every voice counts.

Tonight, in this room, we are part of a growing chorus across Europe saying 'enough'. We are saying we will not accept the centralization of power and the death of digital privacy.

This is a fight we can win, but only if we engage. Let's leave here tonight not just concerned, but committed to overcome this Brave New World.

Thank you for your passion, thank you for your commitment, and thank you for your future action.