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Private Chat, Back Now in Europe?

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We seem to have Germany—not a typo: *Germany*—to thank for the fact that one of the most intrusive EU gambits attacking freedom of speech is [about to fail](#).

The proposal would let governments monitor all private chat messages, via mandatory back doors, without bothering with such trivialities as warrants, probable cause, evidence.

The European Union centralizes many assaults on liberty that member countries are supposed to supinely accept

once enacted. But it can't ignore individual members as proposals are still *en route* to becoming law. And the German government, often [not exactly a beacon](#) when it comes to free speech, has now made its opposition to this particular mode of surveillance and censorship loud and clear.

As Germany blocked the plan, first announced in 2022, German Justice Minister Stefanie Hubig said that “unprovoked chat control must be taboo in a constitutional state.... Germany will not agree to such proposals at EU level.”

Parliamentary leader Jens Spahn of the Christian Democratic Union also uttered some common sense, explaining that warrantless monitoring of chats “would be like opening all letters as a precautionary measure to see if there is anything illegal in them. That is not acceptable, and we will not allow it.”

Although the proposal is not yet quite dead, the German opposition makes it extremely unlikely that EU bosses can go further with it.

*Great spirit, German officials. Cheers to now applying this principle consistently—as is required of principles.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.