

## **PRESS RELEASE**

[09.03.2021]

### **CALL FOR TRUSTWORTHY INSTANT MESSAGING**

*To allow citizens and companies to benefit from digital solutions (including instant messaging solutions) that respect one's right to data privacy and are in line with the highest moral and legal principles, is one of European democratic societies' major challenge. To counter the limits currently set by the major players in this field, an alternative communication solution that will offer the highest level of security and trust, based on open standards and under the national and European legal frame, should be considered.*

With the digitalisation of our societies, which has been accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic, instant messaging solutions make daily communications a lot easier. These communication tools thus prove to be very convenient, if not unavoidable. However, the control of one's personal data on the main platforms in use remains weak and limited.

On 4 January 2021, the announcement of the evolution of WhatsApp's terms and conditions had a major impact and numerous users shifted to alternative solutions.

While other suppliers are available on the market, the major players run monolithic services, forcing users to depend on a single company and thus, to its own Terms & Conditions (most of the time communicated through non-transparent means).

Legal instruments have been put in place, both at national and European levels, in order to establish a framework for personal data protection (i.e. the implementation of the GDPR policy). Thus, this practice remains unsatisfactory. The underlying issues with the current landscape of instant messaging cannot be ignored and call for a strategy of change.

By gathering Luxembourg's Digital players and calling on private companies, public organisations and citizens to support the movement, the objective is to enable the development of a national alternative instant messaging solution, which will deliver the following guarantees:

- to offer the highest level of security and trust,
- not to rely on a single entity and to operate a decentralised and federated architecture,
- to be based on open standards,
- to be able to run in EU based datacentres and under EU legal regimes,
- to be able to secure national communications within Luxembourg based datacentres and under Luxembourg legal framework.

**To read the related Position Paper “Trustworthy Instant Messaging” and support the movement: <https://trustworthy.messaging.lu/>**

*Attached to the Press Release: Position Paper “Trustworthy Instant Messaging” (PDF), including the up-to-date list of supporters.*

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