

PRESS BRIEFING

DIGITAL SERVICES ACT: THE RIGHT TO ANONYMITY ONLINE – PRESENTATION OF POLL RESULTS

11 JANUARY 2022



EUROPEAN PIRATES
in the European Parliament



THE GREENS/EFA
in the European Parliament

RIGHT TO USE THE INTERNET ANONYMOUSLY



1. PROTECTING DIGITAL PRIVACY & THE RIGHT TO ANONYMITY

In recent years, numerous data breaches have exposed users' personal information, such as phone numbers and locations, to criminals. These breaches could have been avoided if users data was not unnecessarily gathered. **The Digital Services Act should provide for the right to use and pay for digital services anonymously** wherever reasonably feasible, in line with the principle of data minimisation and in order to prevent criminal activity, unauthorised disclosure, identity theft and other forms of abuse of personal data.

Use case: In 2021, 533 million Facebook users' private phone numbers (including those of MEPs) were published on a hacker forum. Facebook had collected these numbers unnecessarily. The data facilitates crime and exposes users to risks of SIM swap and phishing attacks as well as stalking.

PAST EP RESOLUTIONS:

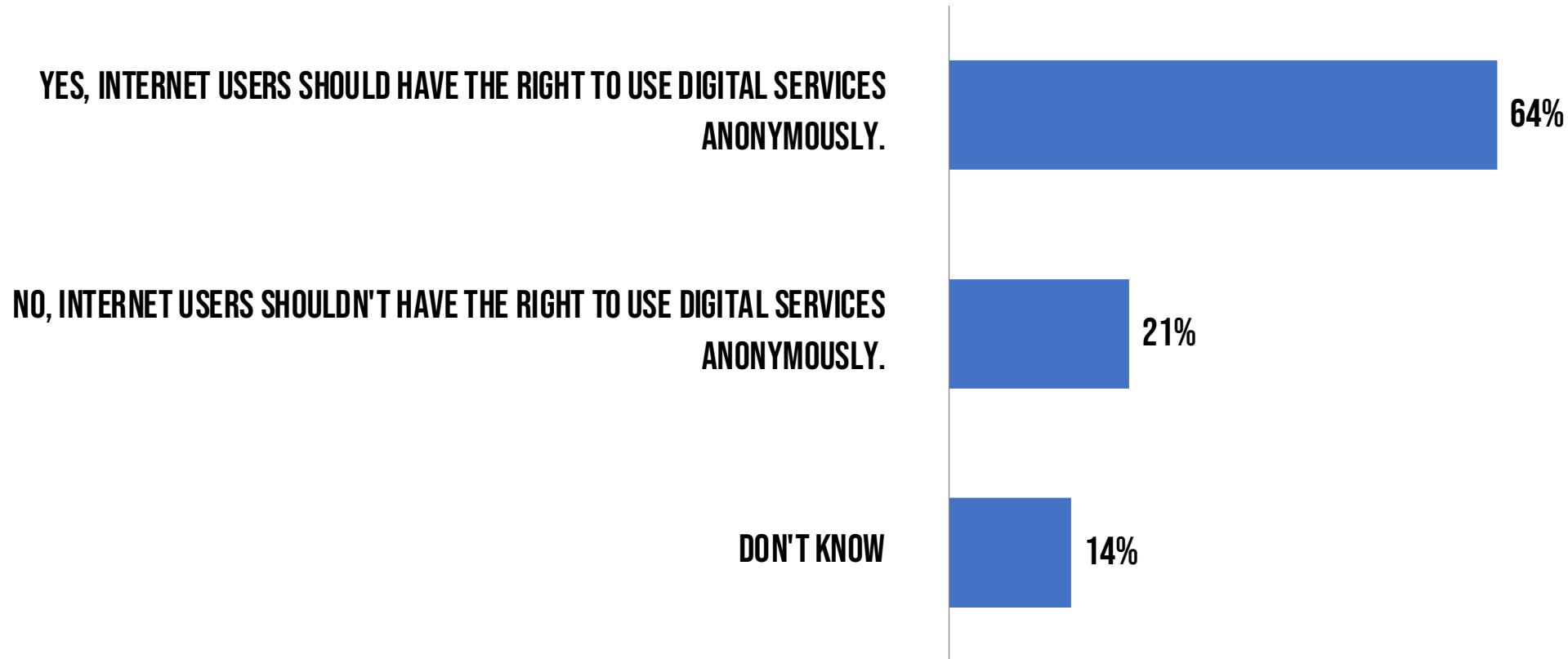
[EP Resolution 2020/2018\(INL\)](#), par. 37:

"...unless required by specific legislation otherwise, intermediaries of digital services should enable the anonymous use of their services to the maximum extent possible..."

[EP Resolution 2020/2019\(INL\)](#), par. 18:

"Stresses that in line with the principle of data minimisation and in order to prevent unauthorised disclosure, identity theft and other forms of abuse of personal data, the Digital Services Act should provide for the right to use digital services anonymously wherever technically possible; ..."

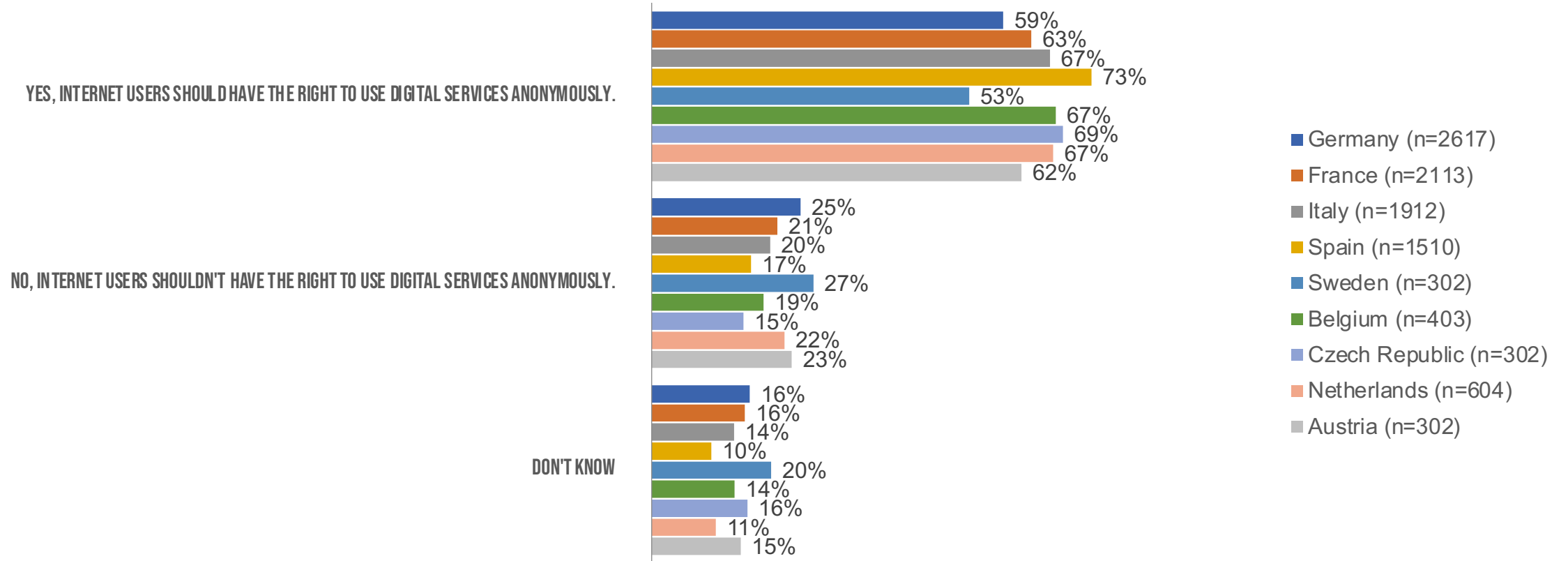
RIGHT TO USE THE INTERNET ANONYMOUSLY



DO YOU THINK THAT INTERNET USERS SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO USE DIGITAL SERVICES ANONYMOUSLY, THUS WITHOUT ANY COLLECTION OF THEIR PERSONAL DATA, WHEREVER POSSIBLE?

BASIS: ALL COUNTRY ADULTS 18+ (10064), SURVEY CONDUCTED BETWEEN 24 AND 28 DECEMBER 2021

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