

German papers ridicule Oettinger for comments

BERLIN, GERMANY: German newspapers have ridiculed incoming EU Digital Commissioner Guenther Oettinger after he blamed "stupid" celebrities for having their private nude pictures hacked and spread online.



EU Digital Commissioner Guenther Oettinger has been berated by the German press for saying celebrities who are "stupid enough" to put nude images on the internet cannot be protected. Image: [EcoNews](#)

A trove of revealing "selfies" and other images of stars and models have been snatched from Apple's iCloud and posted online in recent weeks in what Apple has called a "targeted attack".

Oettinger, asked about the scandal in a Brussels hearing, replied: "If a celebrity is stupid enough to take a nude photo of themselves and put it on the Internet, then they can't expect us to protect them. There is a limit to how far you can protect people against their own stupidity," he said.

News site Spiegel Online said the comment showed that the 60-year-old - who currently holds the energy commissioner's post - has not understood the affair about hacked celebrity images and added that, on the basis of his comments, the new job may be too challenging for him.

It pointed out that the encrypted image files are automatically sent by smartphones into the data "cloud" as a backup, and that the images were stolen by criminals.

Spiegel Online added that Oettinger's comment reflected the notion that "if you use the Internet, you have yourself to blame".

The Hamburger Abendblatt also called the comment a "faux pax" while business daily Handelsblatt said the reply showed that "Oettinger lacked the required technical expertise required for on online privacy protection.

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung in an earlier article headlined "Oettinger retrain as nerd" asked how the German politician, who had to take English lessons when he came to Brussels, would be able to discuss a technical matter such as "clouds, IP addresses and the future of turbo-vectoring".

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge

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