

EUROPEAN INTERNET COREGULATION NETWORK

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Press release

2004 ACTION PLAN AGREED BY THE EUROPEAN INTERNET COREGULATION NETWORK First meeting in Paris

- **Policy statement on child protection to the European institutions**
- **Launch of two working groups : child protection and mobile phone ; Internet governance, in the perspective of the WSIS**

PARIS, APRIL 2, 2004 – The first meeting of the network's members, held in Paris, was attended by more than 17 representatives from 8 European organisations : the UK Internet Watch Foundation and the Oxford Internet Institute, the French Forum des droits sur l'internet, the Italian Forum per la Tecnologia della Informazione, the Swedish IRI (Law and Informatics Research Institute), the Hungarian ITTK (Information Society Research Institute Technical University Budapest), the Belgian Observatoire des Droits de l'Internet and the Austrian ÖIAT (Austrian Institute for Applied Telecommunication).

The meeting was intended to set the priorities for 2004 of this newly formed network, in the perspective of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to be held in Tunis in 2005.

Policy statement on child protection

In the short term, the European Internet Coregulation Network will, by June 2004, issue a "Policy statement" to the European institutions, concerning the prevention of children's exposure to harmful content (including violent and pornographic content) on the internet.

This "Policy statement" will highlight the main principles of the Network's policy on child protection on the internet.

Launch of two working groups

Child protection and mobile phone

During the coming years, mobile phones (3rd Generation, UMTS...) will become a major carrier of online content. The European Internet Coregulation Network will gather information regarding the best practices of their local operators and promote a common and consensual set of practice (for example, concerning harmful content or monitoring of chatrooms) on a European scale. This action could contribute to making mobile Internet, which could become young people's medium of choice, a safer environment.

The leader of the working group will be the Oxford Internet Institute and the final report will be published within one year.

For more information on this group :

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Internet governance

Internet governance covers a wide variety of issues : technical issues (infrastructure, communication, protocols, software) and content related issues (freedom of speech, intellectual property, child protection, spamming, e-commerce, ...)

This working group on internet governance, led by the Forum des droits sur l'internet, will undertake an in-depth study on the multi-stakeholder approach (bringing together the public sector, private sector and civil society) favoured by the network members and propose a common definition of coregulation. It will also analyse the applications of the coregulation approach to domain names governance. This group will collaborate with the working group on Internet governance to be established by Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations.

The final report should be published by October 2005 (The European Internet Coregulation Network will present a text for the Tunis summit in December 2005).

For more information on this group :

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Background on the European internet coregulation network

The European Internet Coregulation Network was initiated by the French organization, Le Forum des droits sur l'internet, in partnership with organizations from 6 European countries during the WSIS in Geneva in December 2003. This network is supported by Erkki Liikanen, European Commissioner responsible for Enterprise and Information society.

Created to act at the European level, the network is composed of organizations from 7 European countries :

Austria: *Osterreichisches Institut für Angewandte Telekommunikation*

Belgium: *Observatoire des Droits de l'Internet – Observatorium van de Rechten op het Internet*

France: *Forum des droits sur l'internet*

Italy: *Forum per la tecnologia della informazione*

Hungary: *Information society research institute*

Sweden: *Swedish law and informatics research Institute*

United Kingdom: *Internet Watch foundation and Oxford Internet Institute*

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