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Questionnaire on protection of minors

With reference to your letter of 8 May 2003 with a questionnaire concerning the Recommendation of the Council of 24 September 1998 on the development of the competitiveness of the European audio-visual and information services industry by promoting national frameworks aimed at achieving a comparable and effective level of protection of minors and human dignity (98/560/EC), please find below the Danish reply:

Internet

1. An association of Internet Service Providers was established in Denmark under the name of Foreningen af InternetLeverandører, FIL. However FIL closed itself down in 2002. Currently the Danish ISP's are organised mainly in two broader trade organisations such as IT-brancheforeningen and ITEK. IT-brancheforeningen has established a subworkgroup especially dealing with the ISP's responsibilities concerning questions relating to illegal and harmful material.
2. A memorandum of understanding concerning domain names has been drawn up. No code of conduct regarding the protection of minors and human dignity has been drawn up.
3. -
4. Those derived from the e-commerce directive.

5. No. According to the police there is, however, a satisfactory co-operation with the ISPs.
6. Two hotlines have been established in Denmark, www.redbarnet.dk and www.anmeldelse.politi.dk. The hotline www.redbarnet.dk is operated by Save the Children Denmark. The hotline is funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the EU-Commission, Safer Internet Action Plan. The hotline is a member of INHOPE (Internet Hotline Providers in Europe, which is also funded by the Safer Internet Action Plan). The hotline operates according to INHOPE best practice. The hotline receives anonymous reports of child pornography, which then are passed on to the police authorities. The police hotline deals with all kinds of criminal actions related to information technology, such as child pornography, hacking, drugs, and racism.
7. The work of Red Barnet Hotline in 2002 shows that less than 3% of the reports concerns material which apparently is hosted in Denmark. About 13% is apparently hosted within the EU-countries. 73% were apparently hosted outside the EU, and in 14% of the reports, the origin could not be decided. For further information, please see the 2002 annual review of the Hotline in English:
http://www.redbarnet.dk/Files/Filer/sexuelt_misbrug/aarsrapport2002Eng.pdf
8. Save the Children has run a campaign on the Internet and has also tried to raise awareness through the press. The hotline is in contact with IT-brancheforeningen. The hotline received in 2002 6483 reports. The police co-operate with several large ISPs to draw the public's attention to the possibility of informing the police of crimes via the hotline. This is done i.a. through links on the ISPs' opening pages to the police. The police have so far received about 3800 reports, of which 65% were related to child pornography.
9. It is the belief of www.redbarnet.dk that in the long run the hotline will - in correlation with other initiatives - impede the access to child pornography. The hotline directs information about suspected material to the police or to other foreign hotlines, on an everyday basis. Successful police investigations have been spawned by the work of the hotline.
10. No
11. No

12. Apart from the initiative by Save the Children Denmark mentioned above: A campaign for safe chat has been launched (<http://www.sikkerchat.dk/baggrund.html>), a safe user guide, part of the EU SAFT project and produced by the IT industry, will be released and promoted by the start of public schools in August of 2003. The Ministry of Education are providing comprehensive information for both teachers and pupils on the national education portal: <http://www.emu.dk/eud/webetik/>

13. No

14. We are seeing positive benefits from the existing cooperation, especially within the area of police investigation of illegal content. No clear demand for further initiatives has been identified.

15. The Mobile sector has initiated a code of conduct concerning sms-services (Aftale om taksering og visse former for betalingsformidling via SMS", version 1.9 af 16. januar 2002.). The code states that the sms-services may not be unsuitable for children under 16 years of age, and may not contain descriptions of violence, sexual or erotics. UMTS services has yet to be introduced in Denmark.

16. Many providers of open chat rooms provide an "ignore-button", which makes it possible for the individual user to remove all communication from other specific users. Some providers of chatrooms provide human surveillance of the chatrooms, others provide automatic surveillance based on language technologies. A mail-service within the ISPs of IT-brancheforeningen is giving updated information on the closing of news and chat groups. The Danish Crime Prevention Council has together with Red Barnet (Save the Children Denmark) launched a website in 2001 on safe chat (www.sikkerchat.dk). The website contains information for children, parents, and teachers. It offers educational material to be used by teachers in schools. It has an e-mail based mailbox which offers advice on problems in chatrooms, provided by a psychologist from Red Barnet. The "traffic rules" of the safe chat campaign are made visible at most chat rooms. The major chat providers in Denmark log the content of children's chat rooms and save the information for at least one month. Chat rooms for children and young people are monitored by "co-administrators" under supervision of the chat provider. There is a good co-operation between the major chat providers and the Centre in the National Police dealing with crime related chat rooms.

17. The use of the internet is an integral part of schooling. The central educational portal provide information for both teachers and pupils on web-ethics and how to

behave on the net (see 12). The Media Council for Children and Young People is currently – through the EU financed project SAFT – developing educational material primarily to school children at the age of 9. The material – whose purpose it is to make children become more competent Internet users – will be available in the autumn of 2003.

18. Online media can enrol under the same procedures as traditional media. See: <http://www.pressenaevnet.dk/english/index.htm> Enrolment is voluntarily.

Broadcasting

The public broadcasters, DR and TV 2, have provided the following information.

19. The Danish Broadcast Corporation (DR) has worked out codices of behaviour and programme guidelines in order to protect minors and human dignity. In connection with the internal editorial guidelines rules has been established in order to prevent trailers and promotion of programmes with a content not addressed to children, to be shown in periods with many children watching television.

Similarly guidelines and codices also include broadcast on internet (www.dr.dk).

TV 2 does not produce or purchase programmes containing pornography or gratuitous violence. Programmes with content unsuitable for minors are not scheduled before 7 PM, in some cases not before 9 PM.

20. See answer to question 19.

21. Danish legislation requires that potentially harmful programmes are preceded by an acoustic warning or identified by the presence of a visual symbol throughout their duration. These measures are considered to be effective.

22. No technical devices are used, as Danish Broadcast Corporations and TV 2 regard the self-regulation mechanisms to be sufficient.

According to available information private broadcasters do not have self-regulation systems.

23. -

24. No

25. Yes. The Media Council has made an agreement with the ICT Industry to label Danish developed software video games with The Media Councils labels (self regulation system similar to ELSPA and PEGI apart from the design of the labels).

Several of the ICT industry members have joined the ISFE PEGI system spring 2003. The national Danish system is considered to be replaced by this new European system.

The Media Council prefers the PEGI system due to the customer's expectations. Statistic shows that 90% of the video games are imported from Europe. Less than 10 % is national.

26. Yes. But parents and teachers need more information about how children use the video games.

27. No. The Media Council for Children and Young People will take this question into consideration in the near future. The results from the SAFT survey May 2003 regarding children's use of the Internet – including online video games - need to be studied carefully.

Other Content Delivery Systems

28. No.

General

29.

30. No.

31.

32.

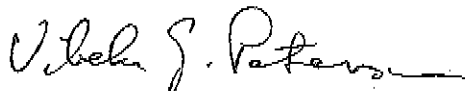
33. The Ministry of Culture in Denmark has initiated several actions in order to clarify the different problem areas concerning the protection of children and young people in the new media landscape. In response to the ongoing debate about the potential harm-

ful effects of playing computer games, the Ministry of Culture has assigned The Media Council of Children and Young People to make a much anticipated report on Children and Young Peoples use of Computer Games. This document will consist of four parts and be based on the latest statistical data collected in the SAFT survey:

1. Statistical data (quantitative surveys) gathered by SAFT/MMI, i.e. both the Parent Study and the Children Study, and by Gallup.
2. Medical scientific response on the possible connection between playing computer games and dopamine released in the brain, and whether this is harmful or not.
3. Information gathering of psychological and media cultural quantitative and qualitative studies in order to illuminate the dynamics between the psychological, cultural and social effects of playing computer games.
4. Overview of regulation on computer game labelling in different countries as well as PEGI (Pan European Games Information).

As a result the report will meet the urgent need for an updated inquiry into and overview of the field of children's computer game playing.

Yours sincerely



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