

Answers from ICELAND

to a Questionnaire on

Implementation of Council Recommendation of 24 September 1998 on the development of the competitiveness of the European audio-visual and informatio services industry by promoting national frameworks aimed at achieving a comparable and effective level of protection of minors and human dignity (98/560/EC)

Internet

1. "Inter" is the name of the Icelandic Association of ISP's. These are only the smaller ISP's.
2. The first entity that connected Iceland to the Internet was SURIS, later called INTIS, they were a co-operation between the University of Iceland and related research institutions, now a part of "Og Vodafone" in Iceland. INTIS published terms of service that could be construed as such a code of conduct. This seems to have disappeared when "Og Vodafone" took over their services. But each ISP has it's own terms of service that are for the most part very similar to each other.
3. These were unilateral terms issued by INTIS.
4. If the content is not on their own servers the ISP's have no special requirements other than the civic duty to report criminal acts. If the content is on the ISP's own servers, then they must act accordingly. The E-commerce directive 200/31/EC has been implemented into national law
5. Yes, if they are aware.
6. Yes. Barnaheill (Save the Children Iceland) has established a hotline where Internet users can report distribution of child pornography on the internet. Barnaheill began operating it's hotline in the year and is a part of the international organization Inhope. Their web site is: www.barnaheill.is and e-mail is: hotline@savethechildren.is The hotline is financed 50% by the EU.
7. Proportion is not known. According to Barnaheill, what is reported to their hotline has all been hosted in other European countries, Russia or the United States.
8. Yes. Public support to www.barnaheill.is. That web site is developed in co-operation with the Icelandic police, as well as Internet service providers. In March 2003 there was a conference which was organized by Barnaheill and the Icelandic police for Icelandic police officers. The key speakers at the conference were Cormac Callanan, Director of Inhope and Terry Jones, Detective Inspector at the Manchester police. The conference got a lot of media attention. After Barnaheill began operating the hotline, public awareness about these matters has increased a lot.
9. The hotline has been effective in reducing the extent and accessibility of harmful and illegal content but depends a lot on the effectiveness of the local police that receive complaints from whoever reports it and the relevant ISP's that host the content and in what legal environment they

operate. Some IPS's act immediately to content reported on its webserver by taking the content of public webspace while keeping traceability to who published it if it becomes a police matter.

10-12. Like many other countries, Iceland is currently engaged in drawing up a range of new legislation aimed, among other things, at dealing with child pornography and other forms of child abuse. In March 2001, the Icelandic Justice Ministry published the results of a survey on pornography and prostitution, and the social conditions surrounding them. As a result of its findings, a working party was set up to examine possible changes in the country's legal code to deal with these problems. Composed of representatives drawn from the judicial system, alcohol and drug abuse education unit, social affairs, health and communications ministries, police and Reykjavík city council, the committee published its findings in June 2002.

The committee recommends, among other things, the introduction of legislation making web servers legally responsible for all material housed by them. Its findings also emphasise the value of access-restricting software as a means of protecting children from potentially harmful web sites. Attention is also drawn to the need for close monitoring of pornography on the Internet, an activity in which the Save the Children Iceland web site, www.barnaheill.is plays a significant part. At the same time, it recommends that Iceland's police forces be provided with the training and technology necessary to fulfil such a role. Barnaheill finds it needs more funding, for example to increase cooperation between police, "hotlines", IPS's and credit card companies. More education and awareness is also needed in the whole of society.

13. No, not to our knowledge.

14. There could be more international co-operation in this matter. Barnaheill (Save the Children Iceland) aims at co-operating with European hotlines network and promoting collaboration between ISP's the authorities and policy-makers.

Broadcasting

19. The Icelandic National Broadcasting Service TV (RUV) follows strictly acts and regulations on the inspection of films and prohibiting of films of violence.

Northern Lights Television uses the recommendations from the Board of Film Classification in Iceland for all their films. TV-movies are classified by Northern Lights TV.

20. RUV doesn't broadcast any programs which are prohibited to children before 9 pm. This also concerns advertisements and trailers.

21. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science requests that broadcasters make visible the ratings of the Icelandic Film Classification.

During transmission RUV's logo appears in the right upper corner of the screen as a watermark. Colors are used to indicate if the on-air program is prohibited to children. White watermark indicates no prohibiting, yellow watermark indicates that the program is prohibited for children

under 12 years and red watermark indicates that the program is prohibited for children under 16 years. Northern Lights apply a similar system

22. RUV broadcasts uncoded. Northern Lights TV broadcasts most of its program coded but it is up to parents to use the filtering devices to ensure that minors can not view harmful programmes.

Video Game Software

24. There are no specific legal provisions in Iceland concerning the sale of video games.

25. The Pan European Games Information (PEGI) age ratings are followed in Iceland. More information at www.pegi.info

26. Retailers claim they are very well enlightened about the PEGI ratings and follow that procedure to ensure that minors are not exposed to games that are unsuitable for their particular age group.

27. All games, on-line or off-line, are treated in the same manner.

Other Content Delivery Systems

28. Not to our knowledge

General

29. We can name three organisations/institutions; Barnaheill (Save the Children Iceland), Barnaverndarstofa (Government Agency for Child Protection) and Ríkislögreglustjóri (National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police).

30. The lack of coherence is seen as somewhat problematic and a coherent European classification system would be preferable. We know not of any cooperation with other Member States.

31. Content providers have filters on their adult material in Iceland and you have to apply for admission to that.

32. Nordic report on child pornography on the internet. On the initiative of the committee of Nordic Government Officials, the Nordic criminal law expert group prepared a survey of the forums and the respects in which the question was already being treated. The purpose of the survey was partly to evaluate the usefulness of a Nordic collaboration and partly to direct the work towards areas where there could be need to implement Nordic initiatives. The report is based on contributions from the respective countries regarding legislation, practical experience and national initiatives addressed towards combating child pornography on the internet. The report also contains a general description of the most important international initiatives being carried out in the EU, the Council of Europe and the UN, or which are being prepared at the present.