Basic information

2004/0023(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Internet: 2005-2008 action programme on promoting a safer use, Safer Internet plus. **Subject** 3.30.25 International information networks and society, internet 3.30.25.02 Information programmes and action plans	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	MASTENBROEK Edith (PSE)	26/07/2004

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	LEWANDOWSKI Janusz (PPE-DE)	26/10/2004
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	13/09/2004
CULT Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets		
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market		

	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2651	2005-04-12
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2629	2004-12-09
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2589	2004-06-10

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Communications Networks, Content and Technology	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/03/2004	Legislative proposal published	COM(2004)0091	Summary
29/03/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
10/06/2004	Debate in Council		Summary
16/09/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
16/11/2004	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
18/11/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A6-0033/2004	
01/12/2004	Debate in Parliament		
02/12/2004	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T6-0072/2004	Summary
02/12/2004	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/04/2005	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
11/05/2005	Final act signed		
11/05/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/06/2005	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2004/0023(COD)

Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 153-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/6/21197 LIBE/5/20799

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0033/2004	18/11/2004	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE350.049	18/11/2004	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0072/2004 OJ C 208 25.08.2005, p. 0018-0038 E	02/12/2004	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	03688/1/2004	11/05/2005	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2004)0091	12/03/2004	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2004)0148	12/03/2004	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2005)239	19/01/2005	
Follow-up document	COM(2006)0661	06/11/2006	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2009)0064	18/02/2009	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1651/2004 OJ C 157 28.06.2005, p. 0136-0140	16/12/2004	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 2005/0854 OJ L 149 11.06.2005, p. 0001-0013	Summary

Internet: 2005-2008 action programme on promoting a safer use, Safer Internet plus.

2004/0023(COD) - 11/05/2005 - Final act

PURPOSE: to establish a multiannual Community Programme on promoting safer use if the Internet and new online technologies.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 854/2005/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers.

CONTENT: The Council adopted the Safer Internet Plus programme, which aims to empower parents and teachers with internet safety tools. The 4-year programme (2005–08) will have a budget of EUR 45 million to combat illegal and harmful internet content. The new programme also covers other media, such as videos, and explicitly addresses the fight against racism, and also “spam”. It will focus more closely on end users: parents, educators and children.

Activities under the four Safer Internet plus action lines will include:

- Fighting illegal content: hotlines that enable the public to report illegal content and which pass the reports on to the appropriate body for action. The programme will fund individual hotlines and network co-ordination, and will be extended to help lines for children worried by illegal and harmful content.

- Tackling unwanted and harmful content: funding for technology that enables users to limit the amount of unwanted and harmful content they receive, or that can be used to test the effectiveness of available filters. Funding will also be available for developing better filters and promoting exchanges of information and best practice on anti-spam enforcement.

- Promoting a safer environment: the EU supports self-regulation, which offers flexibility and understanding of needs in an area combining high technology, rapid change and cross-border activity. The Commission will provide a Safer Internet Forum for national co-regulatory or self-regulatory bodies to exchange experience.

- Awareness-raising: the Commission will support information exchange on safer internet use, particularly for personalised, interactive and mobile applications.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 11/06/2005.

Internet: 2005-2008 action programme on promoting a safer use, Safer Internet plus.

2004/0023(COD) - 12/03/2004 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to develop a programme promoting safer us of the Internet and on-line technologies. PROPOSED ACT : Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council. CONTENT : the internet and other new on-line mediums are enjoying a phenomenal growth across the EU. Recent studies show that internet penetration in the home stands at more than 42% whilst for businesses and schools internet penetration exceeds 90%. Adults and children alike are increasing their access to internet and other on-line mediums. Some of the statistics make worrying reading. For example, four out of ten children who have chatted on the internet say that people, with whom they have only had internet contact, have asked to meet them in person. 14% of the children have met someone they first met on the net. Only 4% of the parent think that the children have done this. 44% of children using the internet have visited a pornographic web site either by accident or on purpose. One fourth has received pornographic material through the net. 30% of the children have seen web sites with violent material, while only 15% of parents think their children have seen this. On a different issue, the proliferation of unsolicited e-mail (spam) has grown exponentially - to the extent that it may be hindering the development of e-commerce and the information society. Experts estimate that soon, over 50% of global e-mail traffic will be spam. Currently, national measures govern both illegal and unwanted content on the internet. The global nature of on-line activities, however, means that an international approach to tackling problems related to

the internet are needed. EU work in this area rests primarily on the Directive on Electronic Commerce. The adoption of the Directive on privacy and electronic communications will lead to a pan-European "ban on spam" directed at individuals. Other areas in which the EU has taken an initiative include the Recommendation on the protection of minors and human dignity. The Commission predicts that there will be a continued need for action both in the area of unwanted and illegal content, particularly child pornography. The Commission is proposing this Decision in an bid to minimise the twin problems of illegal and unwanted content on the internet. The objectives of the programme are: - To promote safer use of the internet and new online technologies (particularly for children). - To fight against illegal and unwanted content. The end user being parents, educators and children. The programme will seek to involve different actors such as content providers, internet service providers, mobile network operators, regulators, standards bodies, industry self-regulatory bodies, national regional and local authorities, schools, consumer associations, families and child welfare groups. The Commission proposes four Actions: 1) Fighting against illegal content : This will primarily be done through funding network co-ordination and individual hotlines where people can register illegal or unwanted content anonymously. The network will be extended to include the new Member States, candidate countries and other European countries where illegal content is hosted and produced. The hotline network would facilitate an exchange of information on the major types of illegal content - extending beyond the area of childpornography to include issues such as racist content. 2) Tackling unwanted and harmful content : Here, the Commission proposes funding for: - Technological measures which empower users to limit the amount of unwanted and harmful content. - The development of effective filtering technology. - Facilitating methods on how to exchange information. - Best practices on the effective enforcement against spam. 3) Promoting a safer environment : This will largely be achieved through the "Safer Internet Forum" which has been set up under the existing Safer Internet Programme. It is a discussion forum which includes representatives from industry, child welfare organisations and policy makers. It is a useful platform for national co-regulatory or self-regulatory bodies to exchange ideas and experiences. 4) Awareness-raising : Under this heading the Commission proposes concentrating on pump-priming, encouraging the multiplier effect and exchanging best practices through an established network. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS : - Budget lines: 09 03 03 (ex-line B5-821) and 09 01 04 04 (ex-line B5-821A). - Total: EUR 50 million. - Period of application: 01/01/05 to 31/12/08. - Staff: 4 grade A permanent post; 1 grade B permanent post; 2 grade C permanent post.

Internet: 2005-2008 action programme on promoting a safer use, Safer Internet plus.

2004/0023(COD) - 10/06/2004

Pending the European Parliament's opinion, the Council agreed on a general approach regarding the proposal on establishing a multiannual Community programme on promoting safer use of the internet and new on-line technologies.

The Council suggested staying in line with the Presidency compromise proposal and considering it as a basis for negotiating with the Parliament, in particular as regards the budget amount. At this stage the Commission maintained its general reservation on the text agreed.

It is recalled that the proposed "Safer Internet Plus" programme responds to new challenges both in quantitative and qualitative terms and focusing on end-user, particularly on parents, educators and children. Four actions are provided for: fighting against illegal content, tackling unwanted and harmful content, promoting a safer environment and awareness-raising.

Internet: 2005-2008 action programme on promoting a safer use, Safer Internet plus.

2004/0023(COD) - 18/02/2009 - Follow-up document

This Communication concerns the final evaluation of the multiannual Safer Internet plus programme (2005-2008.) The programme ran over a four-year period from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2008 with a reference budget of EUR 45 million.

The report sets out in detail the findings of an independent evaluation. The evaluators found that the programme has been successful in achieving its objectives. It has contributed to achieving a safer Internet through a range of interventions.

Considerable achievements: not only has it continued to keep the issue of safer Internet high on the agenda of policy makers across Europe and beyond, but it has also become a driver for action outside the European context. The programme's experiences and best practices are seen as very helpful by other countries which are confronted by similar challenges. The very broad international membership of INHOPE is also a testament to the standing of the programme in the wider internet community. In addition,:

- the networking opportunity provided by the programme is highly valued by many stakeholders, who emphasize the fact that the programme enables sectors to work together who would otherwise not have joined forces, for example major telecoms providers and NGOs;
- the expansion of the two networks to cover virtually the whole European area as well as countries further a field is an undoubted achievement. The INSAFE network has grown from coverage of 21 countries in 2006 to 34 countries in 2008. The INHOPE network has had a similar growth, with 13 members joining during the period of the programme, bringing the total membership to 33;
- successful work has been undertaken in encouraging the mobile phone industry in its efforts to adopt effective self-regulatory mechanisms on protecting minors;
- as regards the awareness activities, the Safer Internet Day has been an undoubted success.

However, the **visibility of the programme** would be enhanced by greater online and offline presence and promotion. A greater consistency in branding would assist in establishing the identity and credibility of the programme within different sectors, countries and regions.

The **sustainability of the programme** itself is robust. It is, however, important to monitor the function of the networks to ensure that the model is still the most appropriate one. In particular, the requirement for hotlines, awareness nodes and helplines to form combined nodes at the national level in order to increase effectiveness also raises the question of whether the two networks should be required to combine in a single organisation to coordinate all activities across Europe.

The report sets out some **recommendations** to be taken into account for future work: (i) promote and protect the rights and privacy of children, young people and other legitimate Internet; (ii) achieve active support and involvement for the Programme and individual projects on a national level from all relevant sectors; (iii) high priority should be given to co-operation and collaboration with third countries, on a policy and operational level, particularly with regard to identifying, tracing and eradicating illegal child abuse images; (iv) enhanced dialogue and cooperation should be established among the various EU initiatives with an intersection of interests or the potential for collaboration with the Safer Internet plus programme; (v) future solutions should continue to take into account national, cultural, linguistic and socio-demographic factors; (vi) the technical knowledge base of the Programme should be further strengthened; (vii) more proactive use should be made of the press and media across Europe; (viii) further knowledge enhancement activity could be conducted in two key areas: problematic, risky and criminal online behaviours on the part of children and young people themselves; the underlying reasons for the trends identified by INHOPE in respect of illegal content; (ix) the roles of the two networks (INHOPE and INSAFE) should be re-visited to ensure they offer the most appropriate mechanism for co-ordinating the work of national nodes; (x) a high priority should be given to raising the visibility of hotlines, which still suffer from low levels of public awareness; (xi) the Programme could engage more actively with industry.

The Commission invites the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions to:

- take note that the programme has been successfully implemented;
- assist the Commission in its work of increasing the visibility of the Safer Internet programme and stimulate a continued dialogue on safer Internet issues.

Internet: 2005-2008 action programme on promoting a safer use, Safer Internet plus.

2004/0023(COD) - 06/11/2006 - Follow-up document

This report has been prepared in accordance with Article 5 (3) of Decision 854/2005/EC *establishing a multiannual Community programme on promoting safer use of the internet and new online technologies*, referred to as the “Safer Internet plus” Decision. According to this Article the Commission is to report to the Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the actions, as set out in the Decision, by mid-2006. To recall, the budget for the multi-annual programme, covering the period 1 January 2005 – 31 December 2008 is EUR 45 million. For the year 2006 the budget stood at EUR 20.5 million.

The programme is divided into four main actions:

- The fight against illegal content.
- Tackling unwanted and harmful content.
- Promoting a safer environment.
- Raising awareness.

Coverage of the new programme extends to new online technologies including: mobile and broadband content, on-line games, peer-to-peer file transfer and all forms real-time communications such as chat rooms and instant messages. One of the main aims of the Decision is to improve the protection of children and minors. The programme does, however, cover other fields of illegal on-line activity such as racism and violence.

In September 2005, the Commission published the “Safer Internet plus” call for proposals. Of the 59 proposals received, 37 were selected following an evaluation period. This involved funding some EUR 11.79 million in total (of which EUR 9.21 million derived from the 2005 budget and EUR 2.58 million from the 2006 budget). Funding was distributed as follows:

- Hotlines: 1 network coordinator and 16 hotlines covering 15 countries;
- Awareness nodes and help lines: 1 network coordinator and 16 awareness nodes;
- User empowerment: 1 thematic network;
- Self-regulation: 1 thematic network;
- Media: 1 thematic network.

The Safer Internet Forum

The Safer Internet Forum was set up under the Safer Internet Action Plan to provide a focal point for discussion and to encourage action on illegal, unwanted and harmful content. It provides a platform for consensus- building, recommendations and guidelines. It also provides an opportunity to discuss ways in which industry can contribute to combating illegal content.

In 2005 the main topic discussed in the Safer Internet Forum was "Child safety and mobile phones". This focused on risk assessment, emerging solutions and national codes of conduct. In 2006, discussion with mobile network operators, child safety organisations, researchers and public bodies continued, with the objective of reaching an agreement on best practices on child protection and their implementation across Europe. In June 2006, two new topics were discussed in the Forum: children's use of new media and blocking access to child sexual abuse images.

Safer Internet Days

Safer Internet Day is a global drive to promote a safer Internet for all users, especially young people. In February 2005 and 2006, Safer Internet Days were organised under the patronage of Commissioner Viviane Reding by the European internet safety network INSAFE, which is co-funded by the Safer Internet Programme, with the participation of a broad number of organisations and countries from both within and outside of the EU. In 2006 the Commission intends to continue the above activities and to enhance their impact by:

- Consolidating and extending the geographical coverage of the hotlines and awareness-raising networks.
- Fostering closer cooperation between all stakeholders in Safer Internet activities.
- Offering practical advice on how to use the Internet more safely.
- Increasing the visibility of the Safer Internet plus programme among European citizens.

To conclude, the great number of reports received by the hotlines (over 534,000 in 2005 alone) shows the increasing need for programmes capable of fighting illegal on-line content. Safer Internet Day, with its broad national participation and media coverage, is increasingly recognized as a valuable communications tool. Awareness nodes are providing ever more targeted campaigns at children, parents and teachers.

Internet: 2005-2008 action programme on promoting a safer use, Safer Internet plus.

2004/0023(COD) - 02/12/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution based on the draft by Edith MASTENBROEK (PES, NL) and made some amendments to the Commission's proposal. Parliament voted for compromise amendments already agreed with the Commission and the Council:

- the Decision establishes a Community Programme for the period 2005-2008. In the implementation of the

Programme, the Commission must ensure that it is generally consistent with other relevant Community programmes, in particular the Community research and technological development programmes and the Daphne, eContent2 and Modinis programmes;

- the financial framework for period from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2008 is set at EUR 45 million, of which EUR 20,050 million is for the period until 31 December 2006. For the period following 31 December 2006, the amount will be deemed to be confirmed if it is consistent for this phase with the financial perspective in force for the period commencing in 2007;

- the Commission must report on the implementation of the action lines by mid-2006 at the latest. It must report on the consistency of the mount for 2007-2008 with the financial perspective. If applicable, the Commission should take the necessary steps within the budgetary procedures for 2007-2008 to ensure the consistency of the annual appropriations with the financial perspective;

- for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of hotlines, several indicators should be taken into account.

Qualitative and quantitative data must be collected on the establishment and operation of hotlines, the number of national nodes, the geographical coverage in the Member States, the number of reports received, the number and level of experience of staff of the hotlines, the reports forwarded for action to the public authorities and ISPs, and, to the extent available, actions taken as a result, in particular the number and kind of web pages withdrawn by internet service providers as a result of information provided by the hotlines. Those data should be made public if possible and should be forwarded to the competent authorities. For amendments made to the action lines and funding proportions, please see the committee report of 16/11 /04.