Ministerial Conference Safer Internet for Children

Prague, 20 April 2009

The Safer Internet Programme (2009-2013)

Richard Swetenham

Head of Unit of eContent and Safer Internet unit

European Commission
Information Society and Media

General objective and approach

- To **protect children** by **promoting safer use** of the Internet and other communication technologies.

- The Safer Internet Programme has adopted a **multi-stakeholder** approach that allows complementary action and exchange of expertise.

European Commission
Information Society and Media

2

Fighting against illegal content

- The New Safer Internet Programme continues to support **fight against child sexual abuse material** and includes new actions to **tackle harmful conduct online** (grooming and bullying)

- It will do so by funding:
  - a network of 11 European police forces and the existing police networks Interpol and Europol called **CIRCAMP**
  - **technical projects** that support police investigation
  - Research into **victims and offenders**
  - **INTERPOL**
  - **INHOPE** network of hotlines for reporting illegal content

European network of Safer Internet Centres

- **All** Safer Internet Centres will perform **awareness-raising activities**.

- **In addition** they should include

    a) **hotlines** where the public can report illegal content and
    b) **helplines** where **children** and **parents** can raise concerns about **illegal and harmful content** and **harmful contact** (grooming) and **harmful conduct** (cyberbullying)

Continuous support for self-regulation: mobile phones

- Signature of **European Framework for Safer Mobile Use by Younger Teenagers and Children** in February 2007

- First implementation report issued by GSMEurope in **March 2008**
  - National codes exist in 22 Member States
  - The industry signatories in these Member States serve around 580 million customers, which represents 96% of all EU mobile customers.

- Second implementation report issued by GSMEurope in **April 2009**
  - Results discussed at the workshop on mobile phone operators and self-regulation

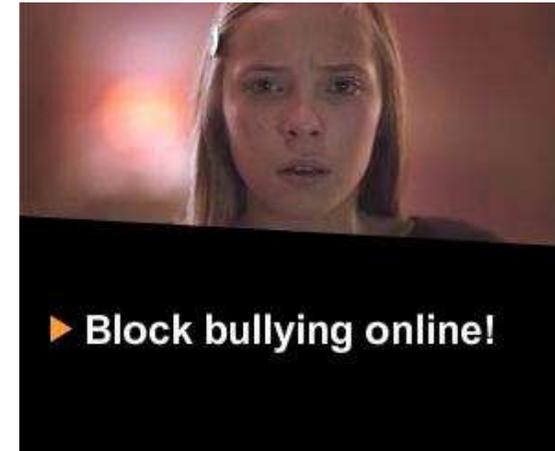# Continuous support for self-regulation: social networking sites

The Safer Social Networking Principles for the EU were signed in February 2009
List of signatories:

- Arto
- Bebo
- Dailymotion
- Facebook
- Giovani.it
- Google
- Hyves
- Microsoft Europe
- MySpace
- Nasza-klasa.pl
- Netlog
- One.lt
- Skyrock
- StudiVZ
- Sulake/Habbo
- Yahoo!Europe
- ZAP.lu

European Commission
Information Society and Media

The Internet is fun!Keep it fun, keep control! Block bullying online!

- The Commission launched an information campaign in February 2009 to empower children to fight risks online

- The video clip at the core of the campaign shows a girl who is victim of **cyberbullying**, but fights back and **reports** the problem to her social networking site.

- The video has been broadcast on TV all over Europe and is

disseminated online

A new approach: positive content

- Research seems to suggest that in countries where there is a high availability of online tools and sites aimed at giving children and young people positive experiences, fewer youth report of negative experiences online

- The Commission has brought together a number of stakeholders to discuss how this might be achieved

European Commission
Information Society and Media

Safer Internet Forum 2009- teaching internet safety in schools

- Safer Internet Forum 2009 – **21-23 October, Luxembourg**

- It will seek answers to the questions:
  - Why is it necessary to raise children's awareness of online safety issues at school?
  - How can online child safety be included in school curricula?
  - How can online child safety be taught in school?

International Cooperation

- Child protection online is a global and complex matter

- Cross-border cooperation is therefore vital

- The new Safer Internet Programme 2009-2013 will strengthen co-operation with:
  - Internet Governance Forum
  - International Telecommunications Union
  - Council of Europe
  - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
  - Russia

European Commission
Information Society and Media

Safer Internet Programme- Work Programme 2009

- The Work Programme 2009 gives an overview of all actions that will be carried out and funded this year

- The full text of the Work Programme is available at http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/docs/call_2009/wp_09.pdf

Thank you for your attention!

European Commission
Information Society and Media