

Council of Europe promoted self-regulation of cybercontent

Dinant T.L. Oosterbaan

in: *World eBusiness Law Report*, 25 October 2001

The Council of Europe has adopted a recommendation containing 20 principles on the self-regulation of, and protection against, illegal and harmful cybercontent.

The principles have been grouped into sets including:

- the establishment of self-regulatory organizations (eg, the Association of Dutch Internet Providers and the Consumers Association) which represent Internet players, and associated codes of conduct. The Consumers Association used a system of approval marks to foster confidence with online consumers (although as of September 2001, this is no longer active);
 - the neutral labeling of content, using ‘content descriptors’, for example graphic indications for violent or pornographic content. This will help Internet users recognize and filter unwanted content;
 - the introduction of content selection tools (eg, search tools and filtering profiles);
 - the establishment of complaints, dispute resolution and international cooperation systems. Various private content complaints bodies already exist (eg, the Center for Child Pornography on the Internet); and
 - the development of self-regulatory quality labels for Internet content. For example, the most popular Dutch search engine ‘Ilse.nl’ uses quality labels for its search services, giving users the option to search only in family-friendly sites.
-

Oosterbaan & Van Eeghen

Koningslaan 35, 1075 AB Amsterdam, The Netherlands

tel: +31.20.671.6756 / fax: +31.20.671.8669 / e-mail: info@itlawyers.nl /url: www.itlawyers.nl