



SCREENING CHAPTER 10 INFORMATION SOCIETY AND MEDIA

AGENDA ITEM 10D : SAFER USE OF INTERNET

**Country Session: The Republic of TURKEY
13-14 July 2006**



Turkey has not participated to eSafe Programme in 2002 and eSafe+ Programme in 2005.



Legal Basis

- Freedom of communication and press are guaranteed by the Turkish Constitution. (Articles 22 and 28)
- These freedoms can be restricted only on the grounds of;
 - national security,
 - public order,
 - preventing crimes,
 - public health
 - public morals.



Turkish Criminal Code, Law No. 5237 provides;

- Legal basis for combatting illegal and harmful content on the Internet under the same provisions with media and press
- The definition of “by means of media and press” also covers the Internet (Article 6/1-g)

Turkish Criminal Code prohibits;

- Child pornography (Article 226)
- Propaganda of terrorist organizations (Article 220/8)
- Interception of communication (Article 132)
- Prevention of communication (Article 124)



Practical Tools for Ensuring Safer Use of Internet

Safer Use of Internet at Schools

A protocol has been signed between Ministry of National Education and Türk Telekom in order to block such contents of pornography, terror, drug usage, weapons, gambling, violence, through a filter mechanism.



The Circular on Internet Ethics (No.2004/61) issued by the Ministry of National Education

- Supports widespread usage of Internet and new technologies at schools
- Emphasizes safer use of Internet
- Gives teachers and administrators responsibility to take care about students to use Internet in a safe and proper way
- Introduces a guideline or “code of conduct on Internet” which defines practical usage of Internet in a safe and useful way.
- Students are informed about negative effects of pornographic contents by their instructors.



Supporting Safer Use of Internet out of Schools

The Ministry of Interior issued a Circular on Internet Cafes
(No.2006/38)

Objective:

- To protect children from harmful content of Internet
- To encourage the safer use of Internet
- To provide users with a healthy environment in Internet cafes.



Supporting Safer Use of Internet out of Schools The Circular 2006/38;

- Obliges Internet cafes to use and update filter softwares which block online gambling, pornography, violence, terror propaganda.
- Forbids internet cafes to keep and access computer games encouraging gambling, betting, violence, drug usage or other bad habits and having pornographic content.



AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

Internet Weeks:

Since 1998, second and third weeks of April have been celebrated as “Internet Week” in Turkey by NGOs so as to:

- Contribute to the development of Turkey’s Internet
- Introduce and extend Internet to the masses,
- Bring the Internet into public agenda,
- Give impetus to Turkey’s Internet.

Various activities are performed for achieving these objectives (seminars, workshops, leaflets, TV Programs etc.)



AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

During the Internet Week, students, parents, educators and other users are informed about not only the opportunities but also the drawbacks of the Internet so as to promote the safer use of Internet.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Internet Literacy

Within the framework of studies carried out under the Council of Europe, “The Internet Literacy Handbook” has been prepared by the Group of Specialists on Human Rights in the Information Society.

The Handbook has been translated into Turkish and has been sent to the Council of Europe in order to be publicised in its official website.

The Handbook is to be distributed to schools by Ministry of National Education.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Regarding the implementation of the “Optional Protocol on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography” Annex to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the 42th session of the Committee, on 17th May 2006, Institution for Social Services and Protection of Child (SHÇEK) submitted a detailed report including the activities and progress in the field of protection of children from harmful content on the Internet.



Thank you for your kind attention...