EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Culture and Education

2008/2160(INI)

20.1.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on strengthening security and fundamental freedoms on the Internet (2008/2160(INI))

Rapporteur: Manolis Mavrommatis

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

A. whereas the Internet constitutes an important and unique tool, which contributes, inter alia, to the development and promotion of freedom of expression, the formation of opinions, the dissemination and promotion of culture and knowledge, and the development of economic activities,

B. whereas, owing to its inter-state dimension, the Internet is governed by a European and international legal framework covering matters such as the protection of fundamental rights, including the right to the protection of personal data and copyright, and the safe use of the Internet, particularly by minors and vulnerable social groups,

1. Welcomes the adoption of a multiannual Community programme on the protection of children using the Internet and other communication technologies and hopes that it will be implemented at the earliest opportunity;

2. Calls on Member States, the Commission, Internet providers, users' representatives and all similar competent bodies to work together in order to curb and gradually eliminate illegal and harmful online content;

3. Recognises that widespread use of the Internet may bring significant economic and social benefits and contribute significantly to the completion of the internal market; considers, however, that measures must be taken to ensure that all the fundamental rights of persons, based on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, are always safeguarded and protected and that there is a fair balance between the rights and the freedoms of all parties concerned;

4. Recalls the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions which entered into effect on 18 March 2007 and which emphasises that cultural expressions may not be considered as simply objects of commercial negotiations since they have a dual nature (economic and cultural) and should therefore be protected from abuse on the Internet;

5. Supports, therefore, the development of a legal framework for cultural and creative content on the Internet and the fight against piracy.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	20.1.2009
Result of final vote	+: 25 –: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Maria Badia i Cutchet, Ivo Belet, Guy Bono, Marie-Hélène Descamps, Věra Flasarová, Milan Gaľa, Vasco Graça Moura, Lissy Gröner, Luis Herrero-Tejedor, Ruth Hieronymi, Mikel Irujo Amezaga, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, Manolis Mavrommatis, Ljudmila Novak, Doris Pack, Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański, Pál Schmitt, Hannu Takkula, Thomas Wise, Tomáš Zatloukal
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Gyula Hegyi, Nina Škottová, László Tőkés, Ewa Tomaszewska, Cornelis Visser
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Maria Berger