



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Information Society Directorate-General

Interfaces, knowledge and content technologies. Applications. Information market

SPAM AND THE SAFER INTERNET PROGRAMME

The European Commission has published a call for proposals to implement the **Work Programme 2003 - 2004** of the Safer Internet programme. The indicative total budget available for this call is €11,7 million of Community contribution. Further details are available at http://europa.eu.int/information_society/programmes/iap/call/index_en.htm

The following excerpt from the call's frequently asked question page is particularly relevant to today's discussion.

Q: What possibilities are there for funding actions against spam under the Safer Internet programme ?

A: **BENCH** Benchmarking - The objective of this action is to provide funding to allow an expert, vendor-independent, objective assessment of the filtering software currently available and to make recommendations for future products and lines of applied research. The benchmark should measure ability to deal with classical http, and the ability to filter or block other protocols and services such as download (ftp), eMail (pop3/smtp), peer-to-peer file transfer protocols, chat, instant messaging etc. where the documentation claims that these are filtered or blocked.

QUALAB Quality labels - A system of visible "quality-site labels" for Internet Service Providers will be encouraged to assist users in identifying providers that adhere to widely recognised codes of conduct - which could include a code of conduct aimed at reducing spam.

The deadline for delivering proposals to the Jean Monnet building in Luxembourg is **14 November 2003** at 5 p.m. Luxembourg time.

AWARENOD Awareness raising - Building on awareness work already undertaken, the emphasis of the second phase is on outputting and disseminating the message regarding safe use of the Internet. The Safer Internet Action Plan will provide co-ordination, via national nodes and a co-ordinating node, of awareness actions and programmes in each Member State. Awareness actions will not be restricted to the issue of Web content considered unsuitable for children, but may address several categories of harmful content (including e.g. xenophobia) as well as new forms of interactive information and communication brought about by the rapid deployment of the Internet (e.g. mobile and peer-to-peer services, broadband video, instant messaging, chat-rooms, etc.). The issue of how to deal with unwanted commercial email, much of which contains content which parents would not wish their children to see, also clearly falls within the scope of the awareness message.

HOTLINE Hotlines receive information from the public relating to illegal content and forward them for action to ISPs, police or other hotlines as appropriate. Hotlines will be invited to extend their scope beyond child pornography to include other harmful and illegal content and conduct, and to extend their coverage to new online technologies. Hotlines dealing with illegal content could therefore extend their coverage to spam.

Three deadlines are provided for proposals for hotlines and awareness nodes, the first of which is 14 November 2003.

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