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PRESS RELEASE

Passing of a draft legislation on parental control

On Tuesday, January 18, **the French National Assembly unanimously voted the draft legislation to encourage the use of parental control on the Internet**, introduced by Bruno STUDER, Member of Parliament for the Bas-Rhin and Chairman of the Committee on Cultural Affairs and Education.

Recognizing that the youngest generations were born with digital technology and that it forms a new way of life, Bruno STUDER and the LaREM group have decided to modernize the law to **better guarantee the protection of children online: pornographic or violent content, cyber-bullying, misinformation, online hate, interactions with strangers, replication of dangerous behaviors seen via on-demand video services...**

Though some parents are aware of the risks, **still too few use the parenting tools available to them**. In response to this situation, the French Government has brought together all the key players in the digital value chain to promote the use of parental control. The website Jeprotégemonenfant.gouv.fr should soon be enriched to address all content harmful to children. "*This bill aims to give parents the means to better guide their children as they make their first steps into the digital world: it is a legislation that intends to promote family dialogue*", explains Bruno STUDER.

In view of the industrial consequences that the provisions of the proposed legislation will have on a global level for the parties involved, President STUDER is pleased with the **positive reception he received from them during the preparatory work** for the drafting of the bill at the National Assembly. As an innovative piece of legislation, the text was notified to the European Commission on November 19, 2021 by the French Government.

This bill will **encourage parents to set up the appropriate measures to protect their children on the Internet** and to establish a real dialogue within the household on the topic of digital content. The STUDER law on parental control will make it **mandatory in France for devices allowing online browsing to be pre-installed with a parental control device, whose activation will be suggested to the user when the equipment is put into service** - the terms of application on reconditioned equipment having been specified through amendments when the bill was discussed in committee.

Manufacturers will also have to **inform users about how the risks associated with children's digital experience can be prevented**. The French National Commission for Information Technology and Civil Liberties (CNIL) will issue an opinion on the application decree before its publication. The National Frequency Agency (ANFR) will be responsible for monitoring the law. Lastly, the provisions applicable to Internet service providers, introduced by Law No. 96-659 of July 26, 1996 on telecommunications regulation, have been updated with regard to the technical means of restricting access, in order to make them even more operational.

The draft legislation is now **set to follow through the parliamentary process** and will be examined by the Senate's Committee on Economic Affairs on January 26 and then in plenary session on February 9.