



PRESS RELEASE

Authors worried about the decision by the Court of Justice of the European Union as to the general filtering of works on Scarlet's network

Brussels, the 24th of November 2011

The Court of Justice has rejected a legal obligation for the Internet access providers to filter and block all works exchanged without authorization by way of peer-to-peer systems on their networks. If the Court has excluded general filtering, it has not ruled out any other measure. Consequently, SABAM shall take the time to thoroughly analyze some alternatives.

In concrete terms, the Court has refused that Scarlet be compelled to set up a computer system allowing a general filtering of all electronic communications passing through its network for the reason that such a measure would be disproportionate.

The Court acknowledges in the grounds of its judgement that the author's right is a fundamental right and that authors must be able to force access providers to take measures in order to fight against counterfeiting, including in order to prevent future infringements on authors' rights.

However, according to the Court, the disproportion would stem from the fact that this measure would bring about excessive costs and a too complex technical work for the provider. Besides, it would infringe on the protection of the Internet users' personal data and it might block licit communications. SABAM takes note of this decision and shall propose alternative measures in order to protect the authors and their works.

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About SABAM

SABAM was founded in 1922 by authors and for authors. As a private company, SABAM manages and distributes the royalties that come to the authors. It is the intermediary between the creative artist and the user of the works. SABAM guarantees a fair remuneration of the authors for the use of their works outside the family circle.

Being the largest cultural company in Belgium, it represents 36,000 authors and more than 4 million creations. SABAM is playing an active role in the distribution of cultural products in Belgium and abroad by way of the support it grants to authors and of the network that it puts at disposal.

SABAM is a multidisciplinary society and is made up of composers, lyricists, publishers, playwrights, choreographers, directors, scriptwriters, writers of dialogues, radio makers, authors of subtitles, translators, novelists, poets, comic strip authors, illustrators, journalists, sculptors, painters, video makers, drawers, photographers, graphic artists...

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