



Press release

Brussels, 16th July 2007

CASE SABAM VS TISCALI (SCARLET)

SABAM addresses the main Belgian access providers and ISPA

The Belgian Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers (SABAM) confirms the news that has been published in a Belgian newspaper of July 14, 2007, as to the sending by SABAM of a letter to the Internet access providers "Belgacom" and "Telenet" as well as to the organization that represents all Internet access providers in Belgium (ISPA).

This letter draws the attention to the legal decision that has been taken in the case opposing SABAM to the access provider TISCALI, which has become SCARLET, and that obliges the latter to "prevent the sending or the receipt, by way of "peer-to-peer" software, of illegal files containing a musical work of the SABAM repertoire".

Before starting any legal proceedings with a view to imposing this decision to all other Belgian access providers on pain of a penalty, SABAM wishes to check whether the latter are ready to negotiate an agreement by virtue of which they would undertake to conform voluntarily to this decision. Within this context, SABAM once again stresses one of the dispositions mentioned in the sentence of the court of first instance of Brussels of June 29, 2007, according to which the blocking or filtering solutions are in no way undermining the Internet users' privacy.

Within the framework of a possible agreement, it is up to the providers to promptly inform SABAM of the specific device that they would undertake to implement. In this respect, SABAM considers that "as professionals of the sector, the access providers are in best placed to select the most appropriate device in function of their computer environment and the aim pursued".

SABAM reminds that it is possible for each Belgian Internet user to listen to his/her favourite music, to download or to record it legally and in full security on the Web, in return for fees for the artists.

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