

**Safer Internet Forum
Luxemburg, 22nd October 2010**

Minutes from the plenary session “How does mobile Internet affect the growth and usage of social networking sites by youngsters?”
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The Safer Internet Forum has been organized by the Safer Internet Programme as an annual conference on safer internet issues since 2004. It brings together representatives of industry, law enforcement authorities, child welfare organizations and policy makers. The 2010 edition focused on the results of two major research projects: *EUKidsOnline II* and *European Online Grooming Project*.

Materials are available at:

- http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/events/forum/index_en.htm
- <http://www.slideshare.net/saferinternetforum> (presentations)
- <http://twitter.com/SaferInternet>

The second day of the Forum consisted of three plenary sessions:

- (1) How does mobile Internet affect the growth and usage of social networking sites by youngsters?
- (2) Report mechanism and stakeholders responsibility towards users, and
- (3) Online games – what role do they play in the lives of children.

Richard Swetenham, Head of Unit of the eContent&Safer Internet unit of the European Commission opened the plenary session of 22 October. Prof. Sonia Livingstone (London School of Economics and Political Science) moderated all plenary sessions of 22.10.2010.

Minutes of these sessions were taken by Dariusz Kloza.

The following panellists contributed to this session:

Barbara Scifo PhD, Assistant Professor in Sociology of Culture and Communication at Università Cattolica of Milan. Her main research interest is the social shaping of ICTs, especially the mobile telephony and the internet. Member of the EUKidsOnline network

Julie Inman Grant is Microsoft Corporation’s Global Director of Privacy and Internet Safety

Steve Purser, Head of the Technical Department at ENISA

Jonny Shipp, Telefónica Europe’s Head of Strategy & Implementation for Digital Confidence

Arnaud Druet is safe and responsible products & services director for France Telecom–Orange Group

Heli Alanko is coordinator of the Finnish Internet Awareness Project

Maija Katkovska works in the Latvian Internet Association as Project Manager of Latvian Safer Internet Centre

You will find below the main points they raised and defended during this session:

This panel started with a summary of the session on youngsters and social networking sites (SNS) that took place a day before (by Janice Richardson (Insafe) and parent's panellists.)

In the mainstream, Barbara Scifo (Uni. Milan) discussed the mobile Internet among children. Mobile access is a complementary access point to the classical one. Many children use it privately from parents, e.g. in their bedrooms. She expressed worries about “always-present-connectivity.”

Julie Inman Grant (Privacy and Internet Safety at Microsoft) analysed mobility trends and presented the Microsoft's Safety Approach. She concluded that mobile SNS will outgrow desktop ones.

Steve Purser (European Network and Information Security Agency) talked about privacy and security on mobile devices. He observed three phenomena: (1) nowadays there are not “mobile phones” but “mobile computers” with phone functionalities; (2) currently it is “act-click” instead of “act-think-click” (no pause for a thought); and (3) not only “own privacy” matters but also “privacy of others.” He also made the point, that children are not the weakest generation on the Internet, but that adults are because they often incorrectly assume that they understand this risks and know how to react. The learning point is that adults must educate themselves before they in turn educate younger people.

Jonny Shipp (Strategy and Implementation – Digital Confidence at Telefonica) presented the awareness-raising programme “Interactive generations” in Spain. He argued to bring together the ecosystem, to increase awareness raising and parental control.

Julie Inman Grant discussed integration of various SNS platforms, on-line gaming, etc. The safety is very important concern. It shall include parental control also on phones, game consoles and other devices used.

Arnaud Druet (Orange Group Corporate Responsibility) analysed youngsters using SNS, their privacy and awareness-raising. Children using SNS are nowadays younger and younger. Orange lab has developed an interface to interact with SNS. It is simple and observes privacy settings, yet it is not widely used. There is a need for awareness among parents, including visits with NGOs to schools. These should include issues on privacy.

Heli Alanko (Finnish Safer Internet Centre) talked about mobile devices, kids and parents' awareness. Parents should carefully choose mobile devices for their children, i.e. get to know what they do online and communicate on risks, etc.

Maija Katkovska (Latvian Safer Internet Centre) analysed safety using mobile devices. Most parents think that the Internet safety is linked to the PCs only, not to mobile devices. Three years ago mobile operators did not really want to take part in awareness campaigns but it has increased recently.

The questions asked during the discussion concerned: control of mobile devices, phone bullying, attribution of responsibility, lack of awareness about socio-techniques, combination of mobile devices with SNS and context-dependence of security.