

Council of Europe: Invitation to Member States to Step Up their Fight against Sound and Audiovisual Pirating

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Europe is currently witnessing a fresh outbreak of sound and audiovisual pirating, such as the huge illicit copying and distribution for re-sale of cassettes and CD's, video cassettes, decoding machines for encrypted television programmes, multimedia and games software, not to mention the illegal broadcasting of television programmes, the unauthorised public showing of cinematographic films, etc. The financial and moral damage to artistic creation and to the phonographic and audiovisual industry is very serious.

Concerned by the size and internationalisation of this outbreak, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted on 13 January 1995, a Recommendation urging its Member States to step up their fight against the various forms of sound and audiovisual pirating.

The Recommendation and its appendix suggest a certain number of practical measures to be carried out both at local level and within the scope of international cooperation. They highlight the need for a successful implementation of the instruments already adopted within the Council of Europe, in particular the following Recommendations : Nr. R (88) 2 concerning steps against pirating of authors' and similar rights; Nr. R (91) 14 concerning the legal protection of encrypted television services and Nr. R (94) 3 concerning the promotion of education and the raising of awareness of authors' and similar rights for artistic creation

Recommendation No. R(95) 1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on measures against sound and audio-visual piracy, 13 January 1995.

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