[DE] Key Points Adopted for Combating Child Pornography

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The *Bundesfamilienministerium* (Federal Ministry of Family Affairs) is now using legislation as well as a voluntary agreement scheme for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to combat child pornography on the Internet.

The *Bundeskabinett* (Federal Cabinet) has decided on the key points of a corresponding Act, which could be implemented by summer 2009. By then, ISPs are supposed to be technically capable of blocking child pornography sites. Countries such as Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Canada, Switzerland and Italy have already introduced such blocks. The aim is to create a legal basis obliging all German ISPs to make it more difficult to access Internet sites that contain or refer to child pornography in the sense of Article 184b of the *Strafgesetzbuch* (Criminal Code).

The document outlining the key points has been welcomed in some quarters, although critics fear the expansion of Internet censorship and consider that blocking Internet sites is ineffective.

Eckpunkte zur Bekämpfung von Kinderpornografie im Internet, 25. März 2009

http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Abteilung5/Pdf-Anlagen/kinderpornografie-kabinett-eckpunkte,property=pdf,bereich=bmfsfj,sprache=de,rwb=true.pdf

Key points for combating child pornography on the Internet, 25 March 2009

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