Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
https://pace.coe.int

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Doc. 12697**
22 August 2011

# Adolescents and online pornography

**Motion for a resolution**
several Assembly members

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

In recent years, various member countries of the Council of Europe have reported an alarming increase in the number of adolescents entering the most explicit and violent pornographic websites.

A survey published in February 2011 by the Italian Society of Medical Andrology and Sexual Medicine (*Società Italiana di Andrologia Medica e Medicina della Sessualità* - SIAMS) based on a sample of 28,000 pornographic site users, has revealed that children as young as 14, before they have matured an affectivity-linked sexuality, are surfing websites showing very hardcore images.

Of the roughly 27 million Internet users in Italy, 7.8 million, i.e. 28.9%, use pornographic websites. This ranks Italy as Europe's fourth largest pornographic website user, after Germany (34.5%), France (33.6%) and Spain (32.4%). In some cases, children begin even before 13 years of age (3.9%), and the contacts increase considerably between the ages of 14 and 18 (5.9%).

The excessive use of online pornography from the early adolescence interrupts the maturity of sexuality linked to affectivity and creates a kind of addiction to even the most violent images, leading to a kind of "sexual anorexia".

In more general terms, pornography and above all ease of access and the resultant overexposure to it can even create the same kind of addiction and sickness as that caused by drugs, compulsive gambling and sadomasochism.

We believe that the time has come for the Assembly to open up a debate on these issues to sensitise public opinion, the Committee of Ministers and the parliaments of the Council of Europe member countries to their implications.

*Signed (see overleaf)*

*Signed*[1]*:*

OSCARSSON Mikael, Sweden, EPP/CD
BODEN Fernand, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
COMMERCIO Roberto Mario Sergio, Italy, EPP/CD
DOZZO Gianpaolo, Italy, EDG
FRANCESCHINI Dario, Italy, ALDE
FRANSSEN Cindy, Belgium, EPP/CD
FROMMELT Doris, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
GALATI Giuseppe, Italy, EPP/CD
GATTI Marco, San Marino, EPP/CD
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
GRAHAM Sylvi, Norway, EPP/CD
GREFF Claude, France, EPP/CD
HERASYM'YUK Olha, Ukraine, EPP/CD
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
HOSTALIER Françoise, France, EPP/CD
KALMÁR Ferenc, Hungary, EPP/CD
KAUMA Pia, Finland, EPP/CD
KOSZORÚS László, Hungary, EPP/CD
KOVÁCS Elvira, Serbia, EPP/CD
MARIN Christine, France, EPP/CD
MAYER Edgar, Austria, EPP/CD
MENDES BOTA José, Portugal, EPP/CD
MUÑOZ-ALONSO Alejandro, Spain, EPP/CD
NESSA Pasquale, Italy, EPP/CD
NEUGEBAUER Fritz, Austria, EPP/CD
PALIHOVICI Liliana, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
PERNASKA Lajla, Albania, EPP/CD
POSTANJYAN Zaruhi, Armenia, EPP/CD
SCHÄDLER Leander, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
SCHNEIDER André, France, EPP/CD
SCHOU Ingjerd, Norway, EPP/CD
SPAUTZ Marc, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
STUCCHI Giacomo, Italy, EDG
SZÉKYNÉ SZTRÉMI Melinda, Hungary, EPP/CD
TOFANI Oreste, Italy, EPP/CD
TOSHEV Latchezar, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
TRASHANI Arenca, Albania, EPP/CD
VEJKEY Imre, Hungary, EPP/CD
VITALI Luigi, Italy, EPP/CD
VOLONTÈ Luca, Italy, EPP/CD
ZACCHERA Marco, Italy, EDG

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party