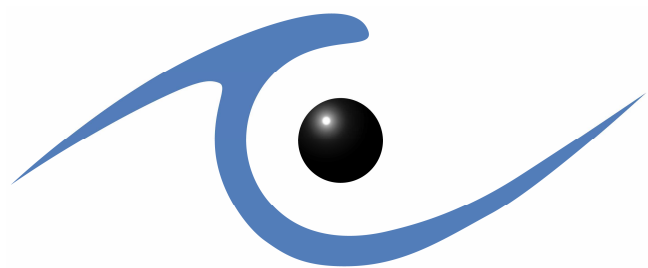


‘Stichting Meldpunt’: Reporting-station of the Foundation Against Child Pornography on the Internet

“Reporting-station for Child Pornography on the Internet”



The ‘Meldpunt’ is financially supported by the Ministry of Justice and via the Safer Internet Action Plan of the European Commission

Amsterdam, April 2006

In every image of child pornography the basis is the abuse of a child. Even after the physical abuse has stopped, the abuse does not stop for the victims, as the evidence will forever be circulated on the Internet.

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The 'Meldpunt' has yet again had an intensive and dynamic year. In this annual report we look back over the activities and developments of the 'Meldpunt' in 2005.

Summary 2005

Increased reports

According to CBS¹, 83% of Dutch households have access to the web. Out of which, only a small percentage come into contact with child pornography. Yet the 'Meldpunt' has ascertained that in 2005 the numbers of incidents reported increased by 30 %. The 'Meldpunt' received, in total, 8.185 reports from Internet users. By comparison: in 2004 there were 6.322 reports. This increase will undoubtedly be related to the increased number of spam-mails with child pornography-content, the ever increasing number of Internet users and the reputation of the 'Meldpunt'.

Spam

An increasing number of Dutch people receive spam into their mailbox in which child pornography is advertised. Example photographs of child pornography may be enclosed or refer to a child pornography-website. The 'Meldpunt' views these reports and traces the source of a possible website. The number of spam reports to the 'Meldpunt' in 2005 has risen by 67% since 2004.

Reports

The 'Meldpunt' has received 8.185 reports, which have lead to a total of 5.126 notifications of child pornography². The 'Meldpunt' made 88 reports of the distribution of child pornography to the Team Child Pornography and Paedosexual Crimes of the KLPD. These cases have all been investigated. The greatest amount of the general reports (5.038 reports) involves images of sexual abuse of children on foreign websites and mainly The USA, Russia and South Korea.

Media

In 2005, the media regularly focused a great deal of attention on child pornography and the 'Meldpunt'. The coverage is particularly concerned with child pornography networks on the Internet and the problem of webcam and chat.

Awareness

The 'Meldpunt' realised the website www.surfsafe.nl, which went online in October 2005. The website advises parents and children on the responsible use of the Internet and is mainly concerned with the safe use of chat, webcam and peer-to-peer.

¹ CBS March 2006

² Reports are dealt with according to the Dutch stature book of penal code article 240b

Child pornography

Child pornography is the ultimate evidence of a crime in which a child is involved, and shows the sexual exploitation of a child. Child pornography is understood as the depiction of actual or simulated sexual activities of a youth, who apparently has not reached the age of 18.³

Child pornography on the Internet: the victim

Children

The primary victims of child pornography are essentially the children who are sexually abused and of whom the images are distributed. As well as the abuse, through the distribution of the material, they are increasingly reduced to being lust objects. A child does not only experience physical but also (long) thereafter great psychological damage. A photo essentially remains on the Internet forever and/ or ends up in the collection of a collector of child pornography.⁴

Self victimisation

Children become victims through sending images of themselves via mobiles and the Internet. Sometimes children make sexual images or films of themselves without considering that there may be people who save or distribute these and that they may be circulating on the Internet. It can also happen that children are teased at school or that ex-s spread these things.

Grooming

As well as the above mentioned, child pornography can also be used for *grooming*. *Grooming* is mainly related to the planning-phase of the sexual abuse and concerns enticement-tactics and/ or techniques that the perpetrator will employ to draw-in the potential victim to within their sphere of influence. This can also be described as "the strategy of abuse". It happens that abusers show child pornography to children in order to convince them that sexual activity between adults and children is normal. The sexual grooming of children also occurs on the Internet. The purpose of adults (*groomer*) may include: online sexual activity in, for example, chat rooms.

Internet users

Even those who come into contact with child pornography material could also be seen as a victim. It is not the case that the average Internet user has a real chance to unwillingly become confronted with such images, yet in 2005 the 'Meldpunt' saw an increase in the number of reports of spam-emails that contained images of the sexual abuse of children.

Victim identification

Unfortunately there is little known about the children who are abused for child pornography. In the Interpol database there are 300.000 images of children being sexually abused, of which only 356 have been identified.

The distribution of child pornography

Before the introduction of the Internet, child pornography was expensive to acquire and difficult to find. The Internet is a relatively easy and cheap way of accessing child pornography. The anonymity of the Internet makes it less risky for the internet user. The Internet is generally an 'apparently' safe and sometimes cheap and easy way to access child pornography.

³ This definition is based on article 240b of the WvS

⁴ 'Child pornography – the state of affairs', R.A.C. Bilo, P. van Wijk, T. Houtman, Zwolle 2000

Digital 'paedophiles

The Internet can be used and abused as a possible way to make contact with children via chat-boxes for example. This doesn't have to lead to sexual abuse, yet it is regularly occurs that children are solicited in this way: this is also known as 'hawking'. The digital paedophile enters the social network of young people on the web by pretending to be a peer seeking contact. On so-called profile-sites they can place photos of themselves and organise chat-session. Once successful, it is then relatively easy to become added to the trusted contact list on, for example, MSN. "The computer is a component of the everyday life of a child. The child uses the computer in the living room, bedroom or places where children feel comfortable can give away too much about themselves to, potentially, the wrong people", according to John Carr (Internet consultant at the National Children's Home; Action for Children).

Organisation

In 1995 the “Stichting ‘Meldpunt’ against Child Pornography on the Internet” was set up. From within the Internet-trade and society there were calls to put an end to child pornography on the Internet. The police were not in a position to fulfil this role, and so a number of representatives from Internet providers and individual Internet users took the initiative to set up the ‘Meldpunt’. The initially informal cooperative was officially opened in June 1996 by the then minister of Justice, Mrs W. Sorgdrager. Since 1998 the ‘Meldpunt’ has had an office from which its activities have been carried out. These activities mostly include the archiving and monitoring of reports, reporting to the KLPD and the foreign reporting-stations affiliated to INHOPE⁵, consultation with diverse organisations and the maintaining of contact with the media.

Objective

The objective of the ‘Meldpunt’ is:

To contribute to the reduction of the availability of child pornography on the Internet.

What’s more, the ‘Meldpunt’ deals exclusively with reports of child pornography in the public areas of the Internet. Reports concerning other punishable incidents on the Internet and reports of child pornography out with the Internet do not fall within its remit. Where possible, such informants are put through to the relevant organisation. The ‘Meldpunt’ does not actively search for child pornography on the Internet itself, and only acts after receiving reports from Internet users. Active tracing is the duty of the police.

The Board

IN 2005, the Board was made up of three people - Christine Karman (chairman), Alex de Joode and Theo Noten – who carry out their roles within the board on a voluntary basis. Christine Karman and Alex de Joode are the co-founders of the ‘Meldpunt’. Theo Noten joined in 1998. He works as coordinator of the Dutch department of the child-rights organisation, ECPAT, which works world-wide for the protection of children against sexual exploitations.

Staff

The office has a complement of three staff.

Psychological support

Given the gravity of the work, through the daily confrontation of the sexual abuse of children, training and care (psychological counselling) are of great importance for the staff at the ‘Meldpunt’, and also in continuing to guarantee professionalism and continuity.

⁵ INHOPE is the International cooperation of reporting-stations. See www.inhope.org.

Activities

The most important activities of the 'Meldpunt':

- Receiving and processing reports from Internet users
- Informing Internet users
- Advising the media
- Cooperation with authorities and organisations
- International cooperation and coordination

These activities are explained in more detail below.

Receiving and processing reports

The central activity of the 'Meldpunt' is dealing with the reports. The majority of reports received by the 'Meldpunt' come directly from Internet users. The general reports come from the associated INHOPE- reporting-stations and 'abuse'-departments of Internet service providers. The reputation of the 'Meldpunt' and the opportunity to make anonymous reports means that the reports of child pornography almost always come directly to the 'Meldpunt'. The 'Meldpunt' Child Pornography is easy to find on the Internet with a well orientated search.

Expert staff

Despite the eventual judgement of the punishable nature of material lying with the judge, in the first instance the judging of photographic material is one of the tasks of the 'Meldpunt' and requires specialised knowledge. The 'Meldpunt' staffs are trained to judge the material, and for this they use instructions from the College of the general-attorney for the tracing and pursuit of possession of and distribution of child pornography, in accordance with article 240b. Of great importance is the speed with which reports are handled. The faster a report arrives with the Dutch or foreign authorities, the earlier the illegal material can be removed from the web.

Procedure of a report

1. An Internet-user, or the 'abuse'-department of an Internet Service Provider, sends a report concerning the distribution of child pornography to the 'Meldpunt' at the email address Meldpunt@Meldpunt.org
2. The 'Meldpunt' receives that report and automatically sends a confirmation of receipt and a follow-up number to the informant
3. The 'Meldpunt' categorises and processes the report, during which a check to see whether the material conforms with art 240b WvSr. In the event of any doubt of whether the report is punishable, consultation is entered into with the Team Child Pornography and Paedosexual Crimes of the KLPD
4. If the reported material is punishable, the 'Meldpunt' reports this to the Team Child Pornography and Paedosexual Crimes of the KLPD. The 'Meldpunt' does not pass on the name or details of the informant.
5. In the event that the material is not distributed from within The Netherlands, the 'Meldpunt' passes the information on to another reporting-station working in collaboration with INHOPE. In the event that there is no cooperative partner in the relevant country, then the information is passed on to the Dienst Recherche, so that it can be dealt with by Interpol or similar organisation.
6. The 'Meldpunt' informs (where possible) the informant about the settlement.

Online report-form

Since February 2006 it has been possible to make an online report on the 'Meldpunt' website by filling in a web-form: <http://www.'Meldpunt'.org/report/>

The report-form has a number of advantages for the informant, such as:

- The informant immediately sees confirmation that the report has been received
- The informant does not have to go through procedures in order to send an email
- The informant conveniently sees what information is needed for the report
- The anonymity of the informant is guaranteed



Home

Meld Online

Criteria

Procedure

Wetsartikelen

Organisatie

FAQ

Sponsors

Donatie

Andere meldpunten

Links

Contact

Stuur een melding naar het Meldpunt Kinderporno op Internet

We behandelen meldingen als anoniem.

Naam:

Email:

Categorie:

Internet
adres(sen):

Commentaar

Bevestig melding

Reset

Legal text from article 240b WvSr

A prison sentence of, at utmost, four years or a fine of the fifth category is the punishment for those who distribute, openly show, reproduce, import, convey or possess an image or a data-base containing an image of a sexual nature, in which someone seemingly under the age of eighteen is involved, or appears to be involved.

A prison sentence of, at utmost, six years or a fine of the fifth category is the punishment for those who carry out one of the crimes described in the first part, making it a profession or habit.

Article 240b WvSr aims to prevent:

1. a youth who is put into in a situation where he/ she used in the recording of images of a sexual nature in the vein of article 240b WvSr, in which he/ she, alone, or with another, is involved,
2. images, which fall under, article 240b WvSr, after (further) reproductions are distributed, shown openly, or collected,
3. youths are encouraged or enticed to take part in sexual behaviour, which may be a part of a subculture that promotes the sexual abuse of children.

Origin of child pornography

The break down regarding the origin of child pornography is as follows:

The 'Meldpunt' has made 88 reports regarding the distribution of child pornography in The Netherlands to the Team Child Pornography and Paedosexual Crimes of the KLPD (in comparison with 2004: 94).

Origin of reports with a punishable content in 2005 (see attached 2 figures and graphics)

1: The Netherlands: 88

2: Within the European Union: 620

3: Out with the European Union: 4506

Russia

Given that Russia does not have a reporting-station to which to declare child pornographic material, websites with punishable content are less speedily removed than in the countries, which do have such a reporting-station. Complaints related to Russian websites are, in accordance with the 'Meldpunt' procedure, passed on to the Team Child Pornography and Paedosexual Crimes of the KLPD, which settle incidents via Interpol or similar. In 2005 the 'Meldpunt' received a delegation from Russia, with the serious intention of starting up a Russian reporting-station.

Paedophile forums

Websites on which the opinions of paedophiles are shared but do not contain punishable material, are not punishable. Some informants are unable to understand this. That is not surprising as non-punishable issues can be condemnable. The 'Meldpunt' handles all reports in line with article 240b. This clause states that stories of sex in which children play a role are not punishable. If the 'Meldpunt' is in any doubt about the possible punishable nature of an image, there is consultation with KLPD.

Informing Internet users

However high the priority is of processing reports, the 'Meldpunt' places great importance on information for the safe use of the Internet by parents, children and schools. It is often the case that information is very necessary. The 'Meldpunt' regularly receives reports from parents and children who are confronted with sexual harassment via the Internet. As a result, good information concerning the risks of the Internet is useful. It is important that parents know what their child is doing on the computer, so that they can intervene in these risks and are able to inform their children themselves. Research has shown that parents rarely know what their children do on the Internet.

Research shows that children see the Internet as a personal domain out with the control or influence of parents, and that children use the Internet to maintain contact with others, especially children of their own age. Despite research showing that little goes wrong on the Internet,

parents leave much up to the children, meaning that they are not always able to prevent problems and timely intervention is not always possible.⁶

SurfSafe website

One of the ways in which the 'Meldpunt' gives information of the safe use of the Internet, is through the surfsafe website (www.surfsafe.nl). The website, set up in 1999 in cooperation with Ecpat, focuses on three groups: kids, teens and parents/ guardians and has the following objectives:

- To make children, youngsters and parents aware of the risks of the Internet, without discouraging the use of the Internet.
- To give children and youngsters concrete advise about safe Internet use and chatting.
- To advise parents on ways in which they can guide their children with using the Internet

In 2005 the 'Meldpunt's' SurfSafe website was restyled.

The 'Meldpunt' Website

The 'Meldpunt' website (www.Meldpunt.org) is intended to give people the opportunity to report child pornography. For this, since 2006, the 'Meldpunt' has had an online report-form. The website also gives information about the criteria, reporting procedure, other reporting-stations and relevant legal acts and news reports.

Advising the media

In 2005, the media (TV, radio and written press) regularly focused attention of the subject of child pornography. Reporting largely focused on child pornography networks on the Internet and the problems concerning chat and webcams. In 2005, the media also often requested commentary from the 'Meldpunt', or a reaction to news. The 'Meldpunt' was also regularly approached to examine the handling of the fight against child pornography on the Internet. This led to various TV and radio interviews.

Cooperation with authorities and organisations

Politics

In 2005, the 'Meldpunt' took action to get the issue of child pornography on the internet onto the political agenda. The 'Meldpunt' has therefore regularly consulted with staff from the Ministry of Justice and Economics.

In addition, the 'Meldpunt' maintain contacts with members of parliament who are in a position to regularly raise critical questions regarding the handling of child pornography on the Internet.

Police

The tracing of (digital) child pornography and the people behind it is the duty of the police. They do this on their own initiative and in response to reports from the 'Meldpunt' and from citizens. The identification of victims and perpetrators is of the highest priority for the police, in addition to which international cooperation is of the greatest importance.

The cooperation between the KLPD and the 'Meldpunt' is good. Roughly ten times per year during meetings, both parties are made aware of each others activities. The KLPD takes up all cases passed on to them by the 'Meldpunt' and in which suspects are brought to justice and where actual situations of sexual abuse are stopped.

Ministry of Justice

⁶ Research carried out at the request of Wanadoo through youth-research bureau Qrius, June 2005.

The 'Meldpunt' received a subsidy from the Ministry of Justice in 2005 and a commitment for the coming two years.

Platforms

In order to express opinion over internet related issues and in order to be able to work on solution, in 2005 the 'Meldpunt' was an active participant in two Dutch government platforms, ECP (e-commerce platform Nederland) and KWINT ("Kwetsbaarheid op Internet", "vulnerability on the internet"). The objective of the KWINT programme is to find concrete solution for businesses, citizens, consumers and government to be able to better protect themselves against the risks attached to internet use. The public-private programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Economics. The KWINT programme ended on 31 December 2005.

ECP.NL was set up by the Ministry of Economics and VNO-NCW and is a platform for e-Nederland with 150 participation businesses and establishments (government, intermediaries, businesses, and education). ECP.nl facilitates the Digibewust Campagne.

In 2005, various meetings were organised by both platforms concerning subjects such as safe Internet for children and safer chatting through the establishment of chat-guidelines.

International cooperation and coordination

INHOPE

INHOPE is a collaboration of a great number of European and non European reporting-stations. INHOPE was, thanks to the Dutch 'Meldpunt', set up in 1999. All members meet roughly three times each year. In 2005 the gatherings took place in January (Amsterdam), May (Paris) and October (Athens.) During these meetings experiences were exchanged, readings held by experts and work-groups organised around various themes. Last year, the 'Meldpunt' was chair of the taskforce *Sponsoring & Communication*. For further information about INHOPE see www.inhope.org.

Overview of INHOPE members:

Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, The UK, Austria, Belgium, The United States, Taiwan, Australia, Brazil, Canada and South Korea.

The function of INHOPE:

- exchange of reports between INHOPE members
- supporting new reporting-stations
- advising policy-makers, especially at an international level
- exchange of knowledge and expertise

In 2005, 'Meldpunt' passed on 3.506 reports to co-report centres affiliated to INHOPE, an increase of 30% from 2004 (2.687 reports).

European Commission

The 'Meldpunt' received a subsidy from the EC via the *Safer Internet Action Plan*. This programme is intended to stimulate safe use of the Internet and online technology. It is mainly for children and focused on the reduction of illegal content unsolicited by the user. For the 2006-2007 period, a subsidy request has once again been submitted to the European Commission in the framework of the Safer Internet Action Plan.

Important developments and trends

Police reporting-station

At the time of publishing this annual report, it is known that from April 2006 citizens can also report child pornography on the Internet to the National 'Meldpunt' Cybercrime of the KLPD. The 'Meldpunt' has a different position and different responsibility than the police and continues to have a difference role in the fight against the distribution of child pornography on the Internet. An important difference to the reporting-station is that anonymous reports can be made to the 'Meldpunt'. And in addition, the 'Meldpunt', via INHOPE, has an important and efficient network at its disposal and plays a role within the international attack on child pornography on the internet, via INHOPE and the Safer Action Plan of the EC. Above this, the 'Meldpunt' is able to use its private status to lobby political pressure.

Chat

The number of reports related to chat rose in 2005 by roughly 20% from 2004. The problem with chat reports is that chat often happens in a one-to-one environment. The 'Meldpunt' cannot take action under such circumstances, as there is no active traceability-function. In these cases, the informant is advised to make a formal report themselves.

In addition, the 'Meldpunt' directs informants to the existence of www.surfsafe.nl. Here people are able to find important tips about the safe use of chat and webcam.

Spam

An increasing number of Dutch people receive spam advertising child pornography. There may be example-photos of child pornography included, or references to a child pornography-website. The 'Meldpunt' views these reports and traces the origins of likely websites. The number of spam reports received by the 'Meldpunt' rose in by 67% in 2005 in relation to 2004. The 'Meldpunt' asks all Internet users confronted by spam to report this to the 'Meldpunt' in order for the 'Meldpunt' to take action. The 'Meldpunt' is concerned by the increasing stream of spam with illegal material and the commercialisation of child pornography.

Developments

One of the focus-areas for the 'Meldpunt' is to step in on technical developments related to the distribution of child pornography via other channels, such as mobile telephones and *peer-to-peer*.

In 2005, the 'Meldpunt' indicated that the distribution of child pornography was moving to other parts of the Internet such as *peer-to-peer* networks. The ever increasing popularity of programmes such as Limewire and Kazaa and the impact of *peer-to-peer* networks on the distribution of illegal material cannot be denied. We regularly receive complaints in which it is described that a downloaded file with a totally innocent name does in fact contain child pornography material. Tracking and gathering evidence demands extra tracking methods. Last year, The KLPD successfully introduced a new programme to detect distributors on *peer-to-peer* networks. The 'Meldpunt' is pleased with this development and hopes that in the future there will be sufficient focus on this problem.

These days people also have access to the Internet via their mobile phones. Illegal material is also sent through mobile phones. The 'Meldpunt' is in consultation with the police, the Ministry of Justice and INHOPE concerning the approach of these problems with concern about new media and information and communication technology.

Sponsors of the 'Meldpunt'

The 'Meldpunt' thanks its sponsors and donators for their contribution to the 'Meldpunt' and hopes to be able to count on their support once more in 2006.



Appendix

APPENDIX 1

Press report from 'Meldpunt' on 1 November 2005

Surf Safe Website updates!

The updated informative website www.surfsafe.nl is live on the Internet. Through this website, the initiative-takers wish to make children and the parents aware of the risks of the Internet and other media and to stimulate responsible Internet use.

The arrival and development of media such as mobile telephones, chat and webcam offer people with various intentions new ways to approach children. Chat rooms are increasingly used by paedophiles to make contact with children. For example, children are told that they are chatting with a child of the same age in order to arrange a meeting, or the child is asked to perform acts in front of the webcam.

The uniqueness of [surfsafe.nl](http://www.surfsafe.nl) is that it is focused on teenagers, children and parents. Liesbeth Bartels from SurfSafe.nl: "Parents often don't know what their children get up to on the Internet. We find that children and their parents can use some support in the responsible use of the Internet. Through the Surf Safe website we offer that support."

In 1999, the 'Meldpunt' Child pornography began a [surfsafe](http://www.surfsafe.nl) campaign in cooperation with [Ecpat.nl](http://www.ecpat.nl). While this campaign was primarily concerned with the risks of chat for children, the new campaign also contains new media, services, programmes and their risks.

Thanks to the financial contribution from MSN, the 'Meldpunt' has been able to realise the Surf Safe Website.

www.surfsafe.nl offers information about safe Internet and new media such as mobile phones and gives tips about chat, e-mail, viruses, webcam, p2p services, legislation and where abuse can be reported. The site goes into detail about the various risks of surfing the Internet, The site also gives tips about safe surfing (for example there is a quiz for children on safe surfing), deals with internet related laws and an explanatory list of words can be found.

'Meldpunt' Child pornography is jointly financed by the Ministry of Justice and the European Union

For more information about Epat: see www.ecpat.nl

APPENDIX 2 FIGURES AND GRAPHICS

OVERVIEW OF FIGURES 2004-2005

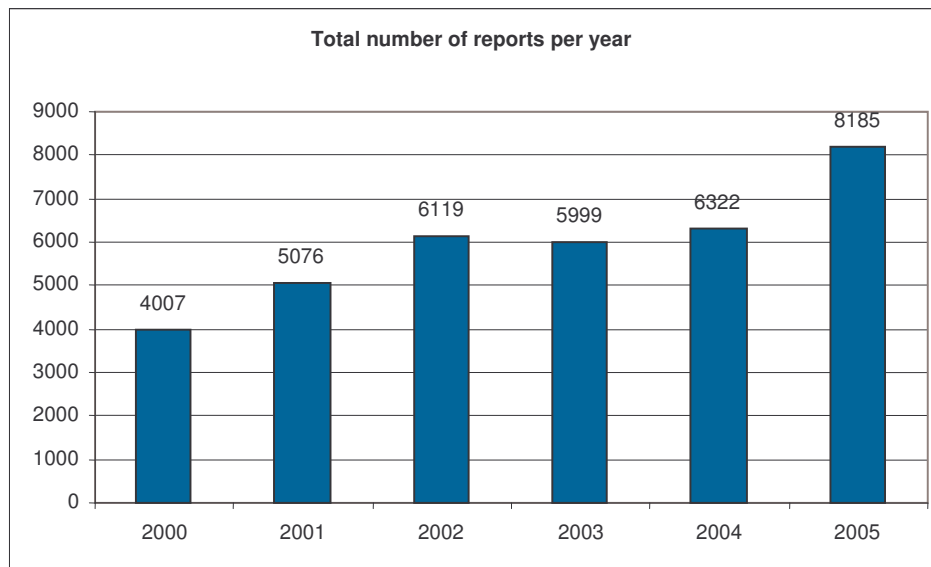
Child pornography	2004	2005
www-NL*	94	88
www-BL*	1.101	715
newsgroups-NL	5	3
newsgroups-BL	57	32
spam (unwanted e-mail)	1.999	2.378
Total number of reports with punishable content	3.256	3.216
No child pornography	2004	2005
www-NL	382	414
www-BL	587	805
newsgroups	26	26
spam (unwanted e-mail)	1154	2893
peer-to-peer programme's	268	291
chat	79	92
general	12	38
unreachable	157	99
informants questions	301	311
Total number of reports	6322	8185

www-NL* = websites in The Netherlands

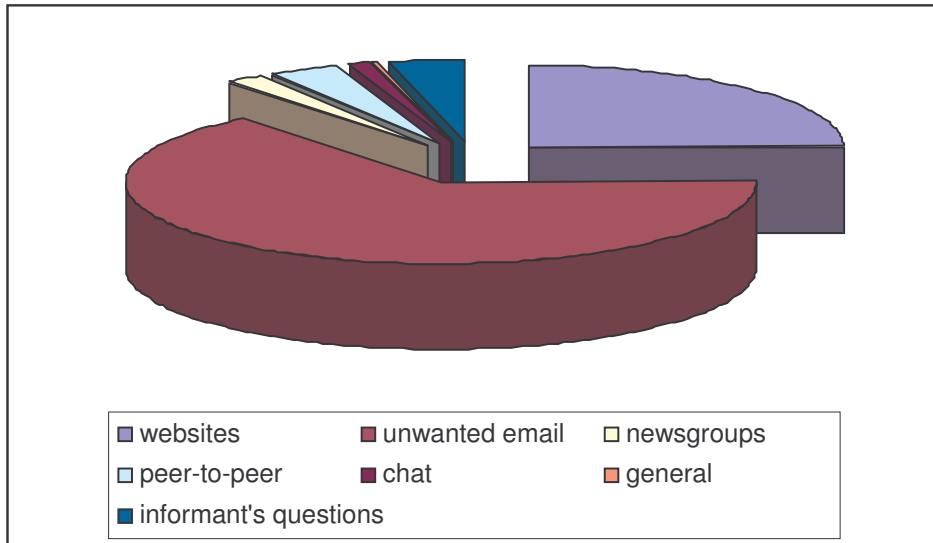
www BL* = foreign websites

GRAPHIC 1

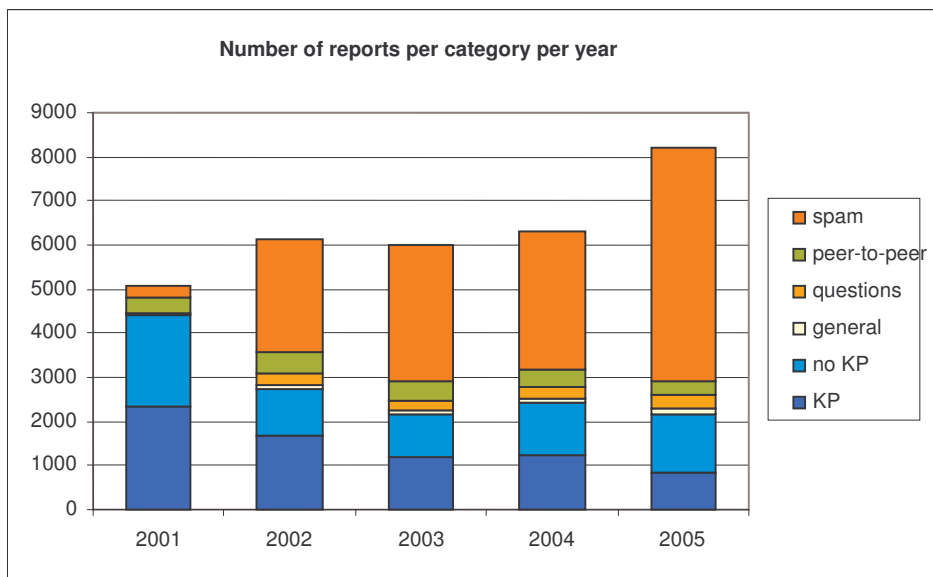
Total number of reports from 2000 to/ inc. 2005



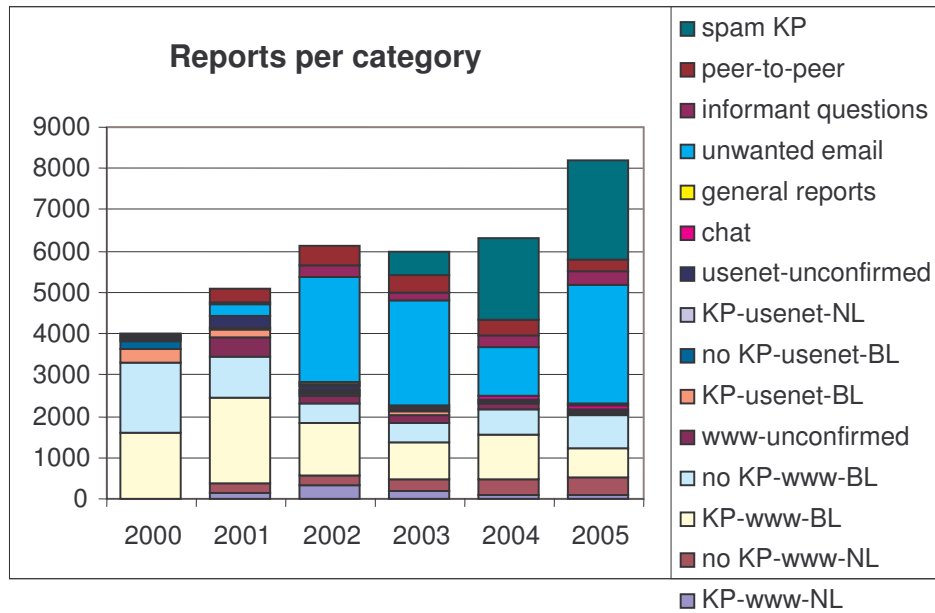
GRAPHIC 2
Total number of reports and categories



GRAPHIC 3



GRAPHIC 4



www-unconfirmed= website no longer available or already removed