

European Commission study on wireless phones and kids

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The European Commission is launching a major inquiry into the social and safety aspects of cell-phone usage by kids.

The landmark study will examine potential risks to minors such as bullying, illegal content and adult predators.

"Mobile communication is a great opportunity for the development of Europe's economies and societies," said Commissioner Viviane Reding. "At the same time, the protection of minors needs to be guaranteed."

Reding said in a statement late Tuesday that the industry must play a role in protecting children, as do public agencies and child-safety organizations.

The Commission said the ideal goal of the consultations, which run until mid-October, would be voluntary continent-wide regulatory standards.

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