

French media want Google to pay for content

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A picture from May last year shows French newspapers' reports about the arrest of Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Leading French newspaper publishers called on the government on Tuesday to adopt a law to force Internet search engines such as Google to pay for content.

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In an interview published in the business daily *Le Figaro*, they said a law should impose a settlement in the long-running dispute with Google, which receives high volumes of advertising revenue from user searches for news contained on media websites.

The publisher of *Le Nouvel Observateur* weekly, Nathalie Collin, suggested that media would in exchange for a "fair payment" give up

their objection that Google index their news content.

Google France told AFP that it believed such a law "would be harmful to the Internet, Internet users and news websites that benefit from a substantial traffic" sent to them by Google's search engine.

Newspapers around the world have seen their bottom line come under pressure as their [print advertising](#) revenues slide and online readers resist paying for access when so much content is free on the Internet.

Francis Morel, the publisher of the business daily Les Echos, said Google had a quasi-monopoly in Internet search in France which had led to it capturing the advertising market linked to such searches.

"You have to know that Google is today one of the top advertising agencies in France with more than a billion euros in sales," said Morel.

He noted however that Google, which has its European base in Ireland, declared only 41 million euros (\$52.5 million) in revenue in France.

France's previous conservative-led government had warned Internet giants that it might crack down and adopt a law to tax online [advertising revenue](#).

French lawmakers in 2011 rejected plans for a tax on online advertising revenues, fearing the project would hurt small local companies more than global Internet giants like [Google](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

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