

**DRAFT DECREE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH COMMUNITY CONCERNING
THE PROTECTION OF MINORS AGAINST TELEVISION PROGRAMMES LIKELY TO
HARM THEIR PHYSICAL, MENTAL OR MORAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Government of the French Community,

Having regard to the decree of 4 February 2021 relating to audiovisual media services and video-sharing services, and more specifically Article 2.5-1, Section 1;

Having regard to the opinion of the Board of Advisers of the Higher Audiovisual Council dated 28 August 2025;

Having regard to the opinion of the Finance Inspectorate dated 30 April 2025;

Having regard to the agreement of the Minister of Budget dated 16 May 2025;

Having regard to the gender test carried out on 26 March 2025;

Having regard to the opinion of the Council of State dated 4 November 2025, pursuant to Article 84, Section 1, Paragraph 1, Subparagraph 2, of the laws on the Council of State, coordinated on 12 January 1973;

Having regard to the information procedure carried out pursuant to EU Directive 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services;

On the proposal of the Minister of Media;

After deliberation;

HEREBY ORDERS:

Article 1. Classification of programmes

Section 1. Every media service provider must classify its programmes according to the age below which it is not recommended for a minor to view them and according to the nature of their content that may be potentially harmful to the physical, mental or moral development of minors.

The age classification is based on the following categories:

1. All audiences category: programmes for all audiences;
2. 6 years category: programmes not recommended for minors under 6 years old
3. 10 years category: programmes not recommended for minors under 10 years of age;
4. 12 years category: programmes not recommended for minors under 12 years of age;
5. 16 years category: programmes not recommended for minors under 16 years of age;
6. 18 years category: programmes not recommended for minors.

The classification by nature of content is carried out according to the following categories, in descending order of sensitivity: violence, anxiety, sex, use of addictive substances, coarse language and discrimination. A programme may fall within more than one content category.

Section 2. On the date this decree enters into force, the media service provider shall establish, within its organisation and according to its own procedures, a viewing committee responsible for classifying its programmes.

Within ten days of the establishment of the viewing committee, the media service provider shall inform the CSA's Authorisation and Control Board of the composition of said committee. Any change in the composition of the committee is also to be notified within ten days to the CSA's Authorisation and Control Board.

Section 3. The programmes are classified based on a criteria guide determined by the Minister responsible for media.

If the criteria guide is modified, the media service provider must carry out a new classification if they are considering rebroadcasting the programme.

The media service provider can classify audiovisual works presented as fiction series, documentaries, and animation after viewing a sample of episodes. The classification of series is determined by the sampled episodes and classified according to the highest age category. Each season of a series is, however, classified separately. In the event of classification based on a sample of episodes, the media service provider remains responsible for the classification assigned to each episode, including for episodes whose classification should have been different from that chosen in the sampling.

Section 4. By way of derogation from Section 1, the following programmes are not subject to any classification:

1. Broadcasts of competitions and sporting events, with the exception of extreme risk combat sports, namely combat sports whose rules explicitly allow blows to be struck intentionally and whose practice is likely to entail a significant risk of harm to the physical or mental integrity of the participants;
2. News programmes;
3. Music concerts;
4. Live broadcast programmes, including if these programmes are rebroadcast after their recording and the catch-up offer of these programmes.

Section 5. The media service provider records the classification of each programme in a database organised by the Minister in charge of media.

If a programme has already been classified in accordance with Section 3, the media service provider may use that classification, unless it considers that the classification already carried out does not correspond to its own assessment of the classification of the programme on the basis of the criteria grid referred to in Section 3. In the latter case, the media service provider also encodes its classification in the database.

Article 2. Programme content indication

Section 1. Any programme in category 6, 10, 12, 16 or 18 years is indicated by the media service provider using age and nature of content pictograms as illustrated in the annex to this decree.

A programme in the general public category should not be indicated by an age pictogram and nature of content pictograms, with the exception of the coarse language pictogram which must appear when the programme requires it.

The age pictogram must appear throughout the entire broadcast of the programme, including credits, as well as throughout all trailers for this programme.

The nature of content pictograms must appear for 10 seconds at the beginning of the programme and each time after an advertising break, as well as during the entire broadcast of the programme's trailers. When the nature of content classification results in several pictograms, only two pictograms, according to the selection method defined in the guide of criteria taking into account in particular the decreasing order of sensitivity referred to in Article 1, Section 1, Paragraph 3, should appear.

The pictograms are displayed clearly and with high contrast in one of the four corners of the screen and meet the following minimum standards:

1. size:
 - a) HD diameter 75 px,
 - b) SD diameter 50 px,
 - c) OTT diameter 40 px;
2. colour: pure white RGB (255,255,255), HEX #FFFFFF;
3. transparency: 0%.

Section 2. A programme or trailer that is only accessible to the user after entering a parental access code is not subject to Section 1.

Section 3. In the programmes referred to in Article 1, Section 4, unless the conditions of live broadcasting do not permit it, an audio or written warning must be given in the event of a scene likely to harm the physical, mental or moral development of minors.

Article 3. Broadcasting rules applicable to the most harmful programmes

A category 18 years programme, as well as its trailer, if applicable, may only be broadcast under the following conditions:

- a) between midnight and 5 am only in an encrypted linear service broadcast in analogue mode;
- b) at any time, in a linear or non-linear service, provided that it is only accessible to the user after entering a parental access code.

Article 4. Rules relating to parental access codes

Section 1. Any media service provider of a television service that requires the entry of a parental access code pursuant to Article 2, Section 2, and Article 3, hereinafter referred to as a "parental code television service," must transmit to the network operator that is providing the resources associated with its distributor, the metadata containing the information relating to the age classification of programmes as referred to in Article 1.

Any network operator providing resources associated with the distributor of a parental control television service must guarantee the compatibility of a decoder's conditional access system with the metadata of that service.

Section 2. Any conditional access system from a network operator providing associated resources that is used by a distributor must meet the following conditions:

1. The restriction on access to category 18 years programmes must be separate from the general access control to the television service and must be active from the first use, without prior user intervention. However, the user can then have the option to determine the level of protection themselves by indicating from which category onwards they want the lock to take place;
2. In a linear service, the lock must be active for the entire duration of the programme and must result in the broadcast of a full-screen monochrome image, without sound;
3. The access code must be exclusively dedicated to disable the parental control except in the case of a paid service where it may be identical to the purchase code. However, when the purchase of the programme allows it to be viewed multiple times during a specified period, the access code must be requested before each viewing;
4. The parental access code must be easily modifiable at any time by the user who holds the original access code;
5. By default, access to the programme should be automatically re-locked each time the user interrupts viewing, except when pausing momentarily and leaving the image frozen on the screen.

Section 3. Any media service provider of a television service with parental control must ensure that the distributor it uses has put in place a system guaranteeing that the original parental access code is exclusively communicated to a user who is 18 years of age or older.

Section 4. Any network operator providing resources associated with a distributor that offers a package including a parental control television service from a media service provider:

1. established in a Member State of the European Union;
2. or established outside a Member State of the European Union but using an uplink to a satellite located in a Member State of the European Union or, failing that, satellite capacity granted by a Member State of the European Union;
3. or falling under the jurisdiction of a State party to the Council of Europe Convention on Transfrontier Television;

must guarantee a conditional access system allowing a level of protection for minors at least equivalent to that provided by the State in which the television service is based.

Article 5. Rules relating to programme information

Section 1. When communicating information about its programmes to the press or any other communication channel, every media service provider must identify each programme in categories 6, 10, 12, 16 and 18 years with the appropriate age and nature of content pictograms referred to in Article 2, Section 1.

The same identification must also be carried out in electronic programme guides according to the minimum standards referred to in Article 2, Section 1, final paragraph.

For the purposes of this paragraph and Section 2, electronic programme guide also means the catalogue of a non-linear television service.

By way of derogation from Paragraph 2, the identification of programmes in electronic programme guides that depend on a decoder software system that the network operator has decided to phase out before or within 6 months following the publication of this decree, may continue to be carried out with age pictograms in accordance with the decree of the Government of the French Community of 21 February 2013 relating to the protection of minors against programmes likely to harm their physical, mental or moral development, until such time as the service of that conditional decoder system is discontinued.

Section 2. The information relating to each programme contained in an electronic programme guide may not include, with the exception of the programme title, terms and images that could be detrimental to the physical, mental or moral development of minors.

By way of derogation from Paragraph 1, an electronic programme guide may include information relating to category 18 years programmes that may be harmful to the physical, mental or moral development of minors if the user has the ability to lock access to this information and unlock it only after the entry of a parental access code. The restriction on information relating to category 18 years programmes, with the exception of programme titles, must be active from the first use, without prior user intervention.

Section 3. Every media service provider permanently makes available to users an explanation of the classification system and the age and nature of content pictograms on its website, and refers to the website of the Ministry of the French Community that also provides information on this subject.

Section 4. The media service providers make advertising space available to the Government free of charge for the dissemination of a communication campaign aimed at raising awareness among viewers about the programme classification system. Media plans are determined in consultation with the media service providers.

Article 6. Enforcement, transitional, and repealing provisions.

Section 1. This order enters into force on the first day of the seventh month following the month of its publication in the Belgian Official Gazette.

Section 2. Upon entry into force of this order, programmes already present in the catalogue of non-linear television services and already classified in accordance with the decree of the Government of the French Community of 21 February 2013 relating to the protection of minors against television programmes likely to harm their physical, mental or moral development, shall not be subject to reclassification in accordance with this decree.

Paragraph 1 does not apply to programmes whose presence in the catalogue exceeds a period of 36 months from the date of entry into force of this decree.

Any programme whose exploitation rights come into force after the date referred to in Section 1 is immediately classified in accordance with this decree.

Section 3. The decree of the Government of the French Community of 21 February 2013 relating to the protection of minors against television programmes likely to harm their physical, mental or moral development is repealed.

Article 7. Final provisions

The Minister responsible for Media is charged with the implementation of this decree.

Brussels, [date]

For the Government of the French Community,

The Minister-President

E. DEGRYSE

The Minister of Media

J. GALANT

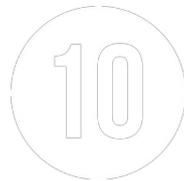
**ANNEX TO THE DECREE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH COMMUNITY
CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF MINORS AGAINST TELEVISUAL PROGRAMMES
LIKELY TO HARM THEIR PHYSICAL, MENTAL OR MORAL DEVELOPMENT**

1. Programme classification by age

- Pictogram for 6 years category:



- Pictogram for 10 years category:



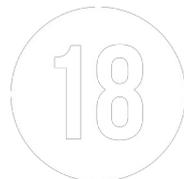
- Pictogram for 12 years category:



- Pictogram for 16 years category:



- Pictogram for 18 years category:



2. Programme classification by nature of content

- Pictogram indicating violence:



- Pictogram indicating anxiety:



- Pictogram indicating sex:



- Pictogram indicating the use of addictive substances:



- Pictogram indicating foul language:



- Pictogram indicating discrimination:



To be annexed to the decree of the Government of the French Community relating to the protection of minors against television programmes likely to harm their physical, mental or moral development.

Brussels, [date]

For the Government of the French Community,

The Minister-President

E. DEGRYSE

The Minister of Media

J. GALANT