

### New French Law on Internet Piracy Meets Skepticism

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PARIS (AP) — A thousand French Internet users a day could be taken off line following approval of President Nicolas Sarkozy's pet project — an unprecedented law to cut the Internet connections of people who repeatedly pirate music and movies.

As the husband of supermodel-turned-pop star Carla Bruni and friend to some of France's most powerful media figures, Sarkozy has long bailed in his cozy ties with the entertainment industry, which has embraced the measure.

But many in Europe have denounced it, saying government controls needed to enforce the law could open the way for invasive state monitoring that violate privacy. And legal challenges at home could derail it: The opposition is trying to get the law declared unconstitutional.

Predictably, music, film and other industry groups have welcomed the measure. John Kennedy, chairman and CEO of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, said Wednesday that it represents a "sea change."

Critics, however, worry about civil liberties.

"We should be careful about interfering with the Wolfgang Zandl, professor at the University of E-Commerce. "This is a constitutional right with

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## New French Law on Internet Piracy Meets Skepticism

New French Law Could Kick 1,000 Internet Users A Day Off Line for Illegal Downloads

PARIS, May 21, 2009

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Predictably, music, film and other industry groups have welcomed the measure. John Kennedy, chairman and CEO of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, said Wednesday that it represents a "sea change."

Critics, however, worry about civil liberties.

"We should be careful about interfering with the freedom of exchange of information," said Wolfgang Zandl, professor at the University of Vienna and president of the European Center for E-Commerce. "This is a constitutional right which no one should be barred from."

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