Cyber grooming:

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Cyber grooming or child grooming on the Internet is a criminal offence. It is sometimes also called grooming.

It concerns cases where an adult seeks contact on the internet with a minor – or even people he or she thinks are minors – with the idea of committing or facilitating an offence against this minor. Often this will be in the sexual sphere, but the penal provision does not impose a condition of sexual intent.

It is required that this adult lies about his identity and/or age (or deliberately withholds them), puts pressure on the child to keep the conversations secret, offers or promises the child a gift and/or uses another ruse. It is not necessary that all conditions are fulfilled to be punishable, only one of the requirements is sufficient to be punishable.

It is not necessary that the online conversations lead to an encounter to be punishable.

For more information about this crime, a concrete punishment and/or tailor-made advice, contact our criminal lawyers at info@studio-penale.be.