PRESS RELEASE
Issy-les-Moulineaux, 16 May 2025

CANAL+ OBTAINS A COURT ORDER FROM THE PARIS JUDICIAL COURT MANDATING VPN BLOCKING OF ILLEGAL SPORTS STREAMING SITES - A TURNING POINT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AUDIOVISUAL PIRACY

On May 15, 2025, CANAL+ secured a favorable ruling from the Paris Judicial Court ordering the blocking of 203 domain names associated with illegal sports streaming sites by five VPN providers, a legal first.

In accordance with the ruling, **NORDVPN**, **CYBERGHOST**, **SURFSHARK**, **EXPRESSVPN**, and **PROTON** are now required to block access to **203 domain names** used to illegally stream **UEFA Champions League**, **Premier League**, and **TOP 14** matches — three competitions for which CANAL+ holds exclusive broadcasting rights in France.

CANAL+ welcomes this decision, which sends a strong message regarding the **responsibility of VPN providers** — recognized for the first time as technical intermediaries — in the **illegal broadcasting of sports content**.

The group is proud to have initiated this major step forward in the fight against sports piracy in France and beyond, setting a legal precedent.

Following previous court orders obtained in 2022 targeting illegal streaming sites via **Internet Service Providers**, in 2024 via alternative **DNS** providers, and in 2025 via **CDN and proxy services**, this new ruling against **VPNs** is fully aligned with the group's strategy to hold all types of technical intermediaries accountable in the battle against audiovisual piracy.

Protecting its content remains a top priority for CANAL+, which continues to implement all available legal measures across its territories to combat content piracy. As a reminder, in 2024 alone, CANAL+ obtained the blocking of over 1,300 domain names in France.

ABOUT CANAL+

Founded as a French subscription-TV channel 40 years ago, CANAL+ is now a global media and entertainment company. The group has 26.9 million subscribers worldwide, over 400 million monthly active users on its OTT and video streaming platforms, and a total of more than 9,000 employees. It generates revenues in 195 countries and operates directly in 52 countries, with leading positions in Pay-TV in 20 of them. CANAL+ operates across the entire audio-visual value chain, including production, broadcast, distribution and aggregation.

It is home to ***STUDIOCANAL****, a leading film and television studio with worldwide production and distribution capabilities;* ***Dailymotion****, major international video platform powered by cutting-edge proprietary technology for video delivery, advertising, and monetization;* ***Thema****, a production and distribution company specialising in creating and distributing diverse content and channels; and telecommunication services, through* ***GVA*** *in Africa and* ***CANAL+ Telecom*** *in the French overseas jurisdictions and territories. It also operates the iconic performance venues* ***L'Olympia*** *and* ***Théâtre de l'Œuvre*** *in France and* ***CanalOlympia*** *in Africa.*

CANAL+ has also significant equity stakes across Africa, Europe and Asia, namely in ***MultiChoice*** *(the Pay-TV leader in English and Portuguese-speaking Africa),* ***Viaplay*** *(the Pay-TV leader in Scandinavia) and* ***Viu*** *(a leading OTT platform in Southern-Asia).*

canalplusgroup.com/en

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Karima Mhoumadi / karima.mhoumadi@canal-plus.com