

ISOC EUROPEAN REGIONAL BUREAU-EU issues overview

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Net neutrality

French Digital Council publishes report calling for net neutrality law

- The [National Digital Council](#) ('Conseil National du Numérique', CNNum), recently created by Digital Economy Minister Fleur Pellerin, has published a [report on net neutrality](#), in which it argues that the freedom of speech in France is **not adequately protected**, considering the development of online filtering and blocking practices.
- Specifically, CNNum calls for:
 - Net neutrality to be recognised as a **fundamental principle to the exercise of the freedom of communications** and enshrined in the 1986 law in this field
 - The principle to encompass both the infrastructure and **communication services providers**
 - The principle **to be extended beyond ISPs as to apply to other Internet** Indicators to be set up in collaboration with various stakeholders and European partners
 - **related services**, such as search engines and social networks
- ETNO's spokesperson has declined to comment on the report but underlined that the association members support a harmonised approach across the EU, rather than country-based legislation. So far, the EU has not considered the introduction of net neutrality legislation as necessary, underlining that the **high level of competition among ISPs would prevent abuses**.

Cloud computing

Cloud computing report points to uneven development of cloud readiness

- The **Business Software Alliance (BSA)** has published its [2013 Global Cloud Computing Scorecard](#), a report that tracks year-over-year changes in the international policy landscape for cloud computing.
- With regards to cloud computing **security**, the report finds that 'several of the **filtering or censorship schemes** regularly block sites that express political dissent. In 2012 Russia introduced new Internet censorship rules, and its score in this section fell significantly.'
- Regarding **data privacy**, the report notes that 'most countries have data protection frameworks and have established independent privacy commissioners', but in some countries reforms have been delayed, including **Turkey**.
- BSA's overall ranking of **EU countries** analysed in the report (Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and Portugal) **worsened** compared to last year, amid **concerns about the data protection overhaul**.

Open Internet

Russia discusses safe Internet initiatives

- To address the issue of **online child safety in Russia**, an NGO called "League for Safer Internet" has suggested the creation of white lists, to which users would sign up, and that would only give access to a **list of pre-approved websites**.
- This comes in response to a new controversial [Internet blacklist law](#) implemented in 2012 to protect children from harmful content. Human rights groups expressed fears that it would strengthen censorship in the country, as the authorities are now able to blacklist and force offline websites without a trial. **ISPs and web hosting companies may be forced to block access** to material considered as inappropriate.

- The League requested local ISPs to provide such a white list, a demand that has been refused. Following this, the NGO has suggested that ISPs provide software that would block “harmful” websites.

Data protection

New ALDE Shadow Rapporteur

MEP Alexander Alvaro (ALDE, Germany), Shadow Rapporteur of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee on the [proposed data protection Regulation](#), who has recently been severely injured in a car accident, will be replaced in his duties by **Sarah Ludford (ALDE, UK)**. Alvaro’s office is to work closely with MEP Ludford to ensure that Alvaro’s political line included in the amendments is maintained.

Cybersecurity

ENISA calls for greater vigilance with email usage

- The European Network and Information Agency (ENISA) has published a [note](#) on recent email-based cyber-attacks, calling for Europe’s businesses and government organisations to take urgent actions to **combat emerging trends in electronic communications cyber-attacks**. To mitigate the risk, the organisations should use **encrypted solutions and sender authentication frameworks**.
- In the long-term, industry, government and businesses should explore alternative communication channels that would provide better level of users’ protection from spoofing or phishing, as **emails are unsafe**, ENISA stressed.

General

France wants to consider Skype as telecommunications operator

- French Telecoms Regulator [Arcep](#) has informed the Paris public prosecutor of Skype’s possible **failure to comply with its obligation to declare itself as an electronic communications operator** in France. Arcep has requested on several occasions that Skype register.
- Arcep argues that considering that Skype provides voice calls to fixed lines and mobile numbers in France and internationally, it has the **obligation to declare itself as a communications operator**. In France, companies are not required to obtain administrative approval to become operators, but their registration is required. Moreover, telecommunications services providers have the obligation to allow emergency calls and must implement features permitting the French law enforcement authorities to monitor the data traffic.
- Arcep’s stance has been backed up by French telecom companies, which argue that companies such as Google and Skype are using their networks to transfer large amounts of data while the operators struggle to find funds to invest in them.