

ISOC EUROPEAN REGIONAL BUREAU - EU issues overview

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Net neutrality

Germany: Opposition grows to new Deutsche Telekom fixed-rate tariff contract

- The German **Minister for Economy and Technology, Philipp Rösler**, has given an [interview](#) in which he stresses his support for the net neutrality principle. His comments are made with reference to the recent [announcement](#) by **Deutsche Telekom** that it will introduce new contracts with fixed data caps and a speed limitation for fixed-rate customers, which would **not** apply to its own entertainment service.
- According to Rösler, telecoms companies are free to apply a flat rate fee for surfing the Internet with quantitative restrictions, as long as they do not restrict or disadvantage the content of other offers vis-à-vis their own. The planned new contract will be checked by experts at the telecoms regulator, the **Bundesnetzagentur**.
- According to a recent [press report](#), **Rösler has written to the Deutsche Telekom CEO René Obermann** to express his concern about the new contracts, which apply to new customers from 2 May.

Cybersecurity

Prospects and challenges of EU Cybersecurity

- During a [recent event](#) in Brussels, high-level panelists, including the Director-General of the European Commission's DG Connect **Robert Madelin**, discussed the **challenges of cybersecurity**, especially with regards to the implementation of the [European Cybersecurity Strategy](#) and the proposed [Network and Information Security Directive](#).
- The panel called on the EU to address the differences in Member States' cyber-attack preparedness in order to obtain a level playing field across the EU.
- **Closer cooperation of public and private entities** was also emphasised: the private sector should play a strong role in putting forward **market-driven solutions**. According to the panelists, cybersecurity standards should not be imposed by lawmakers.
- Regarding the **contingency plans** for the sectors identified in the scope of the Directive, Madelin stressed that the level of safeguards is not to be the same for everyone, but each of the entities concerned should have an **adequate plan to respond to a cyber-threat**. (The Directive does not specifically mention ISPs although they may fall within the definitions of "market operator" or "Trust service provider".)

EU Home Affairs Commissioner calls for further international cooperation

- In a [speech](#) given in Washington, the **EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström** underlined the successful coordination of the EU and US cyber-attack responses and called for **further cooperation between other state and non-state actors**.
- The Commissioner strongly emphasised the added value linked not only to the **private-public sector cooperation**, but also to a stronger and voluntary **cooperation between the industry players themselves**. Such cooperation should also be supported by national administrations.
- The [Global Alliance against Child sexual abuse online](#) was given as example of a successful law enforcement agencies cooperation that could ultimately lead the way for further intelligence and best-practices sharing across the globe.

Cybersecurity: National updates

- **France:** On 29 April, President Hollande was officially presented with a [White Paper on Defence and National Security](#) for the period 2014-2019. This ranks **cyberattacks** as the third most serious threat facing France, and calls for the development of greater technical capabilities, including offensive ones to respond to attacks. These are to be integrated within the French military in an 'operational chain of cyberdefence'. There will also be an increased role for IT systems security agency [Anssi](#), which would be responsible for **public-private cooperation** with critical infrastructure providers.
- **Czech Republic:** In May 2012, the National Security Authority of the Czech Republic (NBU) was commissioned by the government to present a **proposal for a law on cybersecurity**. Recently, the proposal was submitted to the concerned state authorities via the so-called interdepartmental comment procedure. The organisations and stakeholders have until 10 May to submit their comments.

Copyright infringement

Belgium: Collecting society demands royalties from ISPs

- **Belgian ISPs** Belgacom, Telenet and Voo [have been taken to court](#) by **SABAM**, the Belgian music collecting society, for **failing to pay royalties** when enabling customers to download films and music online.
- SABAM has requested that the activities of **ISPs should be subject to the copyright law**. According to the complainant, they should pay a charge equal to 3.4% of their turnover.
- Christophe Depreter, Director SABAM underlined that since 2000 copyright incomes have decreased 54%, while the compensations from online use (e.g. by iTunes, YouTube etc.) remained insufficient.
- In response, Internet service providers association **ISPA** has stated that the activity of ISPs does not give rise to any copyright nor any responsibility for the information transferred on their networks by users. It warned that the stance taken by SABAM could prejudice the legal offer of films and music online and result in an imposition of an Internet tax.
- The court's decision is expected in 2014.

Open Internet

EU Commissioner calls on Azerbaijan to respect Internet freedom

- On a visit to Azerbaijan on 3 May, the **European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Stefan Fule** [expressed his concern](#) about restrictions on the freedom of speech in the country with regards to government actions against criticisms on the Internet.
- After a meeting with the country's President, Fule said: "We are concerned about ideas ... to curb the free access to Internet and its use for communication".