

ISOC EUROPEAN REGIONAL BUREAU - EU issues overview

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Internet Governance

European Commission launches Global Internet Policy Observatory

- On 13 May, the **European Commission** unveiled its plans to create the **Global Internet Policy Observatory (GIPO)**, a platform that aims at improving knowledge of Internet policies and **increasing stakeholder participation** in debates and decision-making.
- With its support for a **multistakeholder model of Internet governance**, the European Commission hopes to use GIPO to promote **open Internet** by sharing expertise with several non-European states, NGOs and stakeholders organisations.
- The Commission has stressed that **GIPO will not replace the existing Internet governance fora** (e.g. Internet Governance Forum), but will act as a toolbox to strengthen Internet policy-making process.
- GIPO's work will be to:
 - 'automatically monitor Internet-related policy developments at the global level'
 - 'identify links between different fora and discussions'
 - 'help contextualise information' e.g. identifying the positions of main actors
 - 'identify policy trends'
 - 'provide easy-to-use briefings and reports'
- In the next months, the Commission will carry out a **feasibility study**. Pending its results, the development of GIPO could start in 2014.

Commissions intends to decide on the need for 'Internet of things' regulation

- During a recent [event](#) in Brussels on the so-called '**machine-to-machine' communications (M2M)**, **Thibaut Kleiner**, advisor to **Commissioner Kroes**, stated that time has come to decide on a possible '**Internet of things' regulation** to ensure that an adequate framework supporting the **market uptake** of this 'technology' is put in place. M2M is perceived as a possible strong driver for the European economic growth and competitiveness.
- The question of M2M use is also linked to **data protection**. As **BEREC** has announced its intention to launch an alternative international roaming service provider, **MEP Seán Kelly (EPP, Ireland)** has stated that there could be the need to apply telecom privacy rules to M2M services.

Net neutrality

Germany: re:publica participants stress support for net neutrality

- At this year's edition of the **German Internet conference re:publica**, the recent move by **Deutsche Telekom** regarding the termination of its flat rate Internet connection contracts proved to be the most controversial topic, since it is perceived as a **step back for the development** of the information society.
- The hosts of the re:publica called some 5,000 participants of the conference to appeal to their governments to take actions against moves that would create a '**second class Internet**'.
- Hannah Seifert from the **Association of the German Internet industry (eco)** also warned about use of the so-called **Deep Packet Inspection (DPI)** that allow **ISPs to filter Internet traffic** to identify malware or spam but could ultimately lead to **Internet censorship**.

Data protection

E-communication industry calls for consistent privacy rules in the EU

- In a [joint statement](#) released on the occasion of an e-communications industry event hosted by MEP Seán Kelly, **Cable Europe**, **ECTA**, **ETNO** and **GSMA** called for the EU to implement **harmonised data protection policies** that would benefit both businesses and consumers and support innovation.
- According to statement, the new privacy regulation should be **technology and service-provider neutral**, thus establishing a level playing field.
- Privacy regulation that would not be distorted by different rules based on technology or company type, would **increase customer confidence** and **support e-communication market development**, the stakeholders underlined.

Copyright infringement

France: ISPs could be subjected to new taxes, suggests government report

- In order to identify ways to modernise the French policy of supporting its cultural industries, in August 2012 the French government commissioned a study on the **reconciliation of digital content and cultural policy**.
- The resulting '[Rapport Lescure](#)' was published on 13 May, addressing issues such as **online access to copyright material** and **piracy**.
- Several stakeholders contributing to the report **called for the ISPs to be more involved** in the collection of **financial support** to the cultural sector and in the **anti-piracy fight**:
 - **ALPA** (Antipiracy association) requested that the **ISPs cease being considered as simple hosting providers** and become trustworthy financial partners. A similar point was raised by **APC** (Association of Cinema Producers), which stressed ISPs' role as VOD services (Video on Demand) providers and editors.
 - **Syndeac** (Union of art and cultural enterprises) proposed that **ISPs become subjected to a new tax** that would help to consolidate funds allocated to cultural creation. Thus, **ISPs could be required to pay a base fee** on the price of subscriptions or advertising revenue from the copies of works they diffuse.
 - With regards to **piracy**, French TV station **TF1** (owned by Bouygues Telecom) underlined that **ISPs are the only ones not to suffer from piracy** and should therefore be **obliged to block sites identified as providing pirated material**.