

ISOC EUROPEAN REGIONAL BUREAU - EU issues overview

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Net neutrality

Germany: Consumer Organisation against net neutrality proposal

- The **German consumer organisation** [VZBZ](#) has rejected a second draft of network neutrality legislation prepared by the German Ministry of Economy, arguing that the **proposed definition of 'managed services' is discriminatory** and could hamper innovation and investments.
- Instead of securing the network neutrality, the **proposal establishes a multi-tier Internet** for content and service providers, as well as for users, argued VZBZ.

Copyright infringement

EU rules on online IP disputes

- The consultation on **online Intellectual property (IP) disputes**, which the European Commission (EC) conducted earlier this year, is said to lay ground for a potential review of enforcement rules that could be proposed by EC.
- While consumers associations (as BEUC) and broadcasting representatives are in favour of creating EU-wide fast-track procedures of online IP dispute, the majority of **respondents opposed the idea of a preferential treatment**. A large segment of the respondents would like to strengthen the **notice and action processes**, should a breach of copyright rules be notified by the right holder, sources reported.

Data protection

France: Court to investigate Internet companies' role in Prism surveillance

- Following complaints logged with the **Paris prosecutor** by human rights watch organisations, the office has launched a **preliminary investigation into the role of Internet companies in the Prism surveillance programme** to establish whether the concerned firms violated French privacy laws.
- According to [Le Figaro](#), the investigation concerns fraudulent access to automated data processing systems, illegal collection of personal data, invasion of privacy, and violation of private correspondence. Some two million communications could have been intercepted in France, according to the estimates.
- At EU level, on 5 September, the **European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee** (LIBE) will hold a [public hearing](#) on electronic mass surveillance of EU citizens

Rules on notifications by ISPs for personal data breaches comes into force

- The EU [Regulation](#) on the measures applicable to the **notification of personal data breaches by providers** of publicly available electronic communication services to the competent national authorities entered into force on 25 August.
- Under the Regulation, the [ISPs are required to notify all personal breaches](#) to the **national authorities no later than 24 hours** after the breach has been detected.
- ISPs are also required to notify **the affected person 'without undue delay'**, in cases that the data breach will adversely affect the personal data (based on the assessment of the breach and its likely consequences). However, should the ISP implement **appropriate technological measures** rendering the data unintelligible, the provider is no longer required to notify the data breach to the user.

Facebook publishes its first transparency report

- Facebook has published its first [transparency report](#) which reveals that the US submitted more demands (12,000) for users' information than all other countries combined. In the EU, the UK submitted over 1,900 requests, Germany more than 1,800 and Italy 1,700 requests.
- Without disclosing the nature of information provided to governments, Facebook has confirmed that the overwhelming majority of the **requests concerned criminal matters, rather than issues of national security**. Nevertheless, in light of the Prism scandal, privacy organisations underlined that governments are widely collecting data without requests, reported *Financial Times*.

Data protection update

- German Justice Minister has confirmed that in wake of the reports on the US surveillance of EU citizens' data, a **growing number of Germans are switching to national email providers** offering encryption services. The Minister's statement follows a recent move by [Germany's main ISPs to provide services made in Germany](#). Linked to consumers' desire for secure data, the European cloud companies registered strong increase in demand for their services, reported the EU Observer.
- A top lawyer at the **US Department of Commerce** warned that the **EU's wish to impose regulatory measures on transatlantic data flow could seriously damage the economy**, sources reported, underlining that data flows will be a major part of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The **European leaders** will hold a **summit on the digital economy in October** where the issue of data protection and the EU data protection framework is to be addressed.

General

EU: 22% of the population has never used Internet

- According to [Eurostat](#), in 2012, **22% of Europeans between the ages of 16 and 74 have never used the Internet**. While in Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg and Sweden only 10% of the population has never been online, in Bulgaria, Greece and Romania over 40% of people have [no online experience](#).
- Within the states, **divergences exist mainly between age groups**, the older the age group, the less Internet usage; **and between the sexes** as, on average, the proportion of women who have never used Internet is 5% higher than the number of male users.