

ISOC European Regional Bureau Newsletter

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Cybersecurity

EU: Member States diverge on the provisions of cybersecurity cooperation

- Despite the revelations of Edward Snowden, EU Member States representatives who gathered at last week's **Telecom Council** appeared not to be ready to increase cooperation, as the provisions of the proposed **Network and Information Security Directive** on information exchange proved to be controversial.
- Ministers supported the **principle of minimum harmonisation**, allowing Member States to adopt more stringent cybersecurity provisions. The discussions revealed that while Member States agree on the **urgent need to promote cybersecurity**, they also want to **strike the right balance between enhanced provisions and full use of the existing arrangements**.
- Under the proposal, Member States would be required to **exchange information on cybersecurity breaches**, a move that several Member States (including France, Germany, and the UK) rejected. The **French representative** stated that the **EU first needs to create conditions for trust**, before mandating it. On the other hand, Member States from **Central and Eastern Europe** supported the idea of **advanced cooperation** that they perceive as indispensable for EU-wide security.
- Further discussions and clarifications are also needed with regards to the **stakeholders of the proposal**, nature of the strengthened cooperation and cases in which coordinated EU answers would be needed.
- At a recent **event** that took place at **NATO research centre**, **Toomas Hendrik Ilves**, the president of Estonia, called on the **national administrations to closely work together** in order to reach agreements on **norms of cyber-behaviour** and develop defence mechanisms against those who do not accept the norms of openness and freedom. A crucial condition for better cybersecurity to get implemented is to **restore trust between allies** that has been affected in the last months, stated Ilves.

Net neutrality/Telecom package

EU: Member States take stock of progress of telecom package negotiations

- At the Council meeting last week, EU Telecom ministers took **stock of progress of negotiations** on the proposed **Connected Continent package**.
- According to the Council, most Member States voiced their concerns with regards to **red tape and financial burden** which the implementation of the proposal could create. They also underlined the lack of clarity as for the proposal's link to the current telecom framework and the impact the law could have on the powers of the national regulatory agencies.
- With regards to the proposed **provisions on net neutrality**, Member States stated that definitions of **Internet access services** and **specialised services should be clarified**. Overall, the future EU legislation should be future-proof and clear. While the states agreed on the need to balance net neutrality with reasonable traffic management, there are divergences on how to strike this balance. Council press

release confirmed that **no common underlying principle has yet been agreed on**.

- As for **radio spectrum**, the states found the new provisions overly prescriptive and consider a European coordination mechanism as going too far.
- With regards to **consumer protection**, Member States stated they prefer minimum harmonisation, instead of the proposed full-scale harmonisation.

Data protection

EU: Hustinx urges the Council to quickly promote a strong data protection framework

- While welcoming the progress made in the negotiations on the **proposed data protection Regulation**, **Peter Hustinx, the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)** urged the Council to speed up its work on the dossier while **maintaining the letter of the original proposal**.
- **EDPS stressed** that the Council needs to ensure that the new law promotes harmonisation and consistency of EU's data protection framework through the **one-stop shop principle** and the introduction of **accountability provisions** and **enforcement provisions**.

EU/Brazil: Working together to promote data privacy standards

- Speaking at a *Friends of EUBrasil* networking event that took place in Brussels on 11 June, the EU Justice Commissioner **Reding underlined** the resemblance of EU's and Brazil's approaches to data privacy and stated that **the two could jointly promote standards** in order to ensure that the **Internet remains open and innovative**.

Internet governance

EU: Kroes calls for inclusive governance for a global Internet

- In her **speech** at the **World Summit on Information Society** that took place this week in Geneva, the **EU Digital Agenda Commissioner Kroes** reiterated her support for **open, transparent and multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance**. She stated that she does **not support government control** of the Internet, neither by one government, nor by a group of governments.
- Kroes stated that the Internet needs to be governed in **an open, unified and global way**. Stressing that we are now in the middle of an **important transition**, following the US announcement to **transfer core Internet functions for more open and stronger accountability**, Kroes underlined that no decision that would hamper the functioning of the network should be taken.
- The key issues to keep in mind whilst designing the new model of the Internet governance is to **make governance more inclusive**, strengthen the multi-stakeholder approach and recognise the **responsibilities the governments have in enforcing the rule of law**, underlined Kroes.
- Kroes called upon the community to **implement the roadmap of the recent NETmundial conference**. The directing line should be ensuring that **rights which people have offline are also protected online**, she concluded.