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Copyright

EU: New copyright law to bring only modest changes

- According to a draft document presenting **policy options for the review of the EU copyright rules**, there would only be **modest changes** rather than a sweeping revision of the 2001 law. The **white paper** on the subject, said to be published in **July**, builds on EU's recent initiatives and a public consultation.
- Following internal sources, the awaited white paper on copyright will only call on **Member States to bring their copyright regimes into closer alignment**, thus echoing the reservations voiced previously by national governments with regards to a bold overhaul of the framework. The paper will not suggest for copyright rules to be subject to coordination at EU level, sources said.
- According to a **draft impact assessment** that accompanies the white paper, the Commission is considering **four options for the review** ranging from no policy intervention (comprising market-led solutions); non-binding guidelines the Commission would issue to national governments and organisations affected by copyright law; legislative intervention aiming to align copyright rules; and the possibility of a single EU copyright title.
- The paper is said to put **pressure on the EU with regards to pirate sites tackling**, calling for limiting access of those sites to payment services and ads income.

Net neutrality

EU: Lawmakers need to promote a net neutrality approach that does not harm the Internet

- Speaking the ETNO regulatory **summit** that took place in Brussels on 25 June, **Luigi Gambardella** called on the **EU lawmakers to carefully assess the impact net neutrality rules** would have on the Internet value chain. Gambardella stated that in the original draft, the Commission struck a balance between users' rights and the right to innovate, while the **politicised process in the European Parliament** led to unclear amendments. According to ETNO's analysis, the Parliament's amendments **could harm the entire Internet ecosystem**.
- Underlining that ETNO's members invest to provide enough bandwidth for users, Gambardella stressed the **need for traffic management tools to ensure quality of networks**. There needs to be an offer differentiation taking into account the specific needs of users, Gambardella said.
- For the EU to grasp the opportunities offered by digital economy, an **ambitious and coherent agenda of EU's digitalisation** will also need to look at **competition policies**, Gambardella added.

Internet governance

EU: Kroes and EDPS support multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance

- In a **press release** from 23 June, Peter Hustinx, **the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)** underlined that the EU's efforts to build an integrated model of Internet governance should be completed

by an effective reform of its own legal framework and the adoption of the proposed **General Data Protection Regulation**. The EDPS stressed the importance of an Internet governance model that respects **the individual's rights to privacy and data protection**.

- The Supervisor voiced support to a **broad representation of groups and civil society organisations**, as ways to **balance the representation of Internet companies**. According to the EDPS, the multi-stakeholder approach should also include data protection authorities, as they could play a vital role in ensuring that the new model of governance respects individual rights.
- Speaking in London at **the ICANN High Level Group meeting**, EU Digital Agenda Commissioner **Kroes** called on the participants to continue the work started at the recent NETmundial conference. According to Kroes, the conference proved that a multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance works efficiently.
- Kroes urged countries to stick together on Internet governance, stating that **disputes**, such as France's concerns with the dot-vin and dot-wine domains, are **damaging ICANN's credibility** and could undermine the whole multi-stakeholder model if not tackled together. Stressing the importance of strengthening the **Internet Governance Forum** and the links between national, regional and the global IGF, Kroes called on the Internet governance stakeholders not to focus on their divisions.

General

EU: Next EU presidencies commit to promote digital policies

- The 18-month **programme** of the Council, prepared by the future Italian, Latvian and Luxembourg Presidencies of the Council of the European Union and the High Representative, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Council, contains a part on digital policies, specifying steps for the **completion of the Digital Single Market** by 2015.
- The programme underlined that the **accomplishment of EU's Digital Agenda** is of major importance in the context of the completion of the Single Market and European competitiveness enhancement.
- The programme reiterated the **commitment of the EU to pursue boosting digital infrastructure** and using public administration as an instrument of innovative digital services. The Presidencies will also work on **enhancing consumer and business confidence** in the digital market, facilitating digital cross-border trade and **guaranteeing data protection**. Investment in digital skill, cloud computing and strengthening of **network security** by securing agreement on the proposed Network and Information Security Directive, are also among the priorities. Furthermore, **taxation aspects of the digital economy** and **adaptation of copyright rules** will be examined in the Council. With regards to Internet governance, the Presidencies voiced their support to a **multi-stakeholders governance model for Internet**.
- The three Presidencies have called for an **update of the Digital Agenda**.

EU: Plan to revisit universal-service rules, framework law

- Speaking at the **ETNO Regulatory Summit**, **Anthony Whelan**, Director at DG Connect's electronic-communications networks division, stated that the **Commission intends to revisit the framework governing the telecom industry**, taking into account new **competitive trends**. He also confirmed that the EU is planning to review the **universal-service rules**. Whelan underlined that it will be up to the **new Commissioner to define the issues that are to be examined**. The mandate of Commissioner Kroes expires this autumn.
- Referring to the overhaul of the telecom sector legislation, Whelan stated that the Commission will mostly analyse the necessity of updating the rules on roaming, spectrum policies, as well as utilities and cable companies that interact with the telecom sector. Whelan especially referred to the importance of non-sector actors, such as **companies providing over-the-top services**. Deep inquiries into the subject should be launched later this year, Whelan confirmed.

- **DG Connect's Deputy Director General Roberto Viola** underlined that a **wider discussion on the future** of EU's telecom should be launched **only after the draft EU legislation, the so-called Connected Continent, has been wrapped up.**
- Answering to a journalist's question about **Commission's red lines** with regards to the **telecom package** proposal, Viola stated that for him personally, **the red lines would be net neutrality, roaming and spectrum policies.**

Cloud computing

EU: Commission presents new guidelines on cloud computing

- The **European Commission** has presented **new guidelines on cloud computing.** Developed by a **Cloud Select Industry Group** as part of the Commission's European Cloud Strategy, they aim to help EU businesses to save money and get the most out of using cloud computing.
- The guidelines constitute a first step towards standardised building blocks for **Service Level Agreements (SLAs) terminology and metrics.**
- The guidelines support professional cloud users, ensuring **essential elements**, such as the availability and reliability of the cloud service, the quality of support services receiving from cloud providers, security levels and data management, are included in contracts.

Data protection

EU: Google takes action on removal requests

- Following the recent ruling of the European Court of Justice on **the right to be forgotten**, Google announced that it **has started taking action** on the received removal requests.
- The company confirmed that it continues **working with data protection authorities** in order to refine **processes and standards** with regards to the information that should be removed and the one that should stay in the best interest of the public.
- Google has created a **special advisory committee** to strike the right balance between freedom of expression and an individual's right to be forgotten.
- A message indicating that Google has modified the search results will accompany the erased links to information. The links will only be removed in Europe.