

ISOC European Regional Bureau Newsletter

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Internet Governance

EU: Kroes calls for more concrete actions

- On 2 September, speaking at the opening ceremony of the **Internet Governance Forum** in Istanbul, **EU Commissioner for Digital Agenda Neelie Kroes** defended **the importance of an open Internet** and called for **more concrete actions** to build an Internet governance structure that people can **trust**.
- The Commissioner stated that **NETMundial** conference, which took place earlier this year, has established a solid foundation but there is a need to follow through in putting **the multistakeholder model** on much sounder basis.
- Commissioner Kroes outlined the **main responsibilities** to be taken by Internet governance stakeholders. First, she pointed out that the **Internet Governance Forum** should be granted a permanent status with funding, and act as the central forum to identify and discuss Internet related issues, becoming the main convening entity for multistakeholder problem solving. Second, the **NETMundial principles** should be applied in each of the organisations dealing with Internet Governance, while the existing organisations are adjusted to perform under new challenges. Finally, the **IANA transition** should be actively pursued in a **transparent** and **effective** manner.

Net neutrality

EU: BEREC Chief calls for cautious approach to net neutrality legislation

- **Göran Marby**, the chairman of the Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications (**BEREC**) told the members of the **European Parliament's Industry Committee** that the **EU needs to be careful when drafting net neutrality rules**. Marby stated that the rules need to be based on effects, rather than details, thus withstanding the test of time.
- The final stage of negotiations on the proposed **Connected Continent package** which incorporates net neutrality provisions will start this autumn.
- **Telecom industry has been complaining** about the proposed measures, arguing that the draft is overly prescriptive and beneficial for companies providing services via the Internet.
- According to Marby, a set of **principles would be better than detailed rules**, leaving regulators to adjust to circumstances.
- The telecom market has been evolving from a one-tier market in which a single supplier offers both network access and services (e.g. telephony) to a market where separate operators provide infrastructure and services. This trend may lead to a situation where there is competition on infrastructure but monopolies on services. Thus, Marby urged the lawmakers to take those market dynamics into account, giving the example of a forum created in Sweden that allows telecom operators, web service providers and consumers to discuss their views on net neutrality.

Cybersecurity

EU: Draftsmen on telecom package and cybersecurity to lead negotiations with Member States

- Despite the departure in May of several MEPs handling the legislation relevant to digital agenda, the new European Parliament is expected to push through the proposals creating a single telecom market and boosting EU's cybersecurity, the **Network and Information Security Directive**.
- The Parliament is getting ready to open negotiations on the final texts and **MEP Pilar del Castillo Vera** of the Parliament's Industry and Research Committee (ITRE) is said to have received a mandate to start talks on the proposal with EU Member States, once they agree on a common position. She expressed her optimism with regards to the negotiations' outcome.
- As for the proposed **cybersecurity bill**, the leading Parliament's Committee is the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee that focuses on the European single market and on removing restrictions to trade. The proposal's draftsman, **MEP Andreas Schwab** (ALDE, Germany), has been re-elected and is to lead negotiations with national governments.

EU: Proposed cybersecurity law legally sound

- The **European Commission's legal experts** have refuted assertions that the legal basis of the draft Network and Information Security Directive do not cover the whole bill and its goals. The proposal was put forward in February 2013, and aims to **strengthen Europe's defences against cyber-attacks**. The proposal is based on an EU treaty provision designed to improve the functioning of the European internal market. However, the **approach of the European Commission** has been **challenged by national governments** questioning how the requirements to make them draw up cybersecurity plans could create a better-performing market, stating that the proposal went too far in mandating formal exchanges of information across the EU.
- In an interview with *EurActiv*, **Robert Madelin**, Director General at DG CONNECT, said that national governments' stances with regards to the cybersecurity proposal have led to a **regulatory gap** and warned that there is a **real danger of cyber-attacks in Europe**.

Child Safety Online

EU: ITU presents updated guidelines on child safety online

- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and partners of the Child Online Protection Initiative, released updated **guidelines** to **strengthen child safety online**.
- The **Guidelines for Industry** provide advice to ICT companies on how they can help promote safety for children using the Internet or devices that can connect to it. The guidelines also provide guidance on how to enable responsible digital citizenship.

Data protection

EU: Italian Presidency commits to make progress on data protection reform

- Speaking at the European Parliament, **Andrea Orlando**, Justice Minister of Italy whose country currently holds the Council of the **EU Presidency**, stated that the country will try achieving a **common approach on data protection**. The right to be forgotten will be taken into account, added Orlando.
- In the aftermath of the ECJ ruling declaring the EU data retention Directive invalid, Minister Orlando stated that the Council is awaiting a Commission proposal on the matter.