



Internet Policy and Governance

Europe's Role in Shaping the Future of the Internet

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Introduction

Sustainable governance which involves all stakeholders is essential in order to preserve the benefits of the Internet.

Internet governance involves a wide variety of organisations, and is broadly understood to refer to the "development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet"



Introduction

The Commission is committed to working with partners to rebuild trust in the Internet, including through the strengthening of its global governance, which is an essential prerequisite for a sustainable future for an open Internet.

Objectives

A common European vision for Internet governance

- to defend and promote **fundamental rights** and **democratic values**, and **multi-stakeholder governance structures** that are based on clear **rules** that respect those rights and values
- as a **single, un-fragmented network**, subject to the **same laws** and **norms** that apply in other areas of our day-to-day lives; and where individuals can **benefit from their rights** and from judicial **remedies** when those rights are infringed;

Objectives

A common European vision for Internet governance

- governed by a genuine multistakeholder model
 - **where the necessary inter-governmental discussions are anchored in a multistakeholder context in the full understanding that the Internet is built and maintained by a variety of stakeholders, as well as governments;**
 - **where decisions are taken on the basis of principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness of all relevant stakeholders**



Objectives

A common European vision for Internet governance

- with a **strengthened** and **reformed Internet Governance Forum**
- with a **globalised** Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (**ICANN**) and Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (**IANA**).

Activities /actions

The Commission supports establishing a coherent set of global Internet governance principles, consistent with fundamental rights and democratic values, with all stakeholders.

The Commission will facilitate discussions among stakeholders, including via multistakeholder platforms and the High Level Group on Internet Governance. The Commission invites the Council and the European Parliament to contribute to a common European position in all appropriate venues.

Activities /actions

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For over two years, the Commission has advocated an approach summarised by the **COMPACT** acronym: the Internet as a space of **Civic responsibilities**, **One unfragmented resource** governed via a **Multistakeholder** approach to **Promote** democracy and **Human Rights**, based on a sound technological **Architecture** that engenders **Confidence** and facilitates a **Transparent** governance both of the underlying Internet infrastructure and of the services which run on top of it.

Activities /actions

The Commission will engage with stakeholders to:

- **strengthen the Internet Governance Forum**, taking account of the Recommendations of the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF;
- clearly **define the role of public authorities** in the **multistakeholder** context, consistent with an open and free Internet;
- facilitate **issues-based multistakeholder dialogue and decision-making across organisational boundaries.**

Activities /actions

The Commission will work with all stakeholders to

- identify how to **globalise the IANA functions**, whilst safeguarding the continued **stability** and **security** of the domain-name system;
- establish a **clear timeline** for the **globalisation of ICANN**, including its Affirmation of Commitments.



Activities /actions

The European Commission is **firmly committed** to the multistakeholder model of Internet governance. The Commission calls upon stakeholders to further **strengthen the sustainability of the model** by making actors and processes more inclusive, transparent and accountable.

The Commission will work with stakeholders on the **exchange of best practices**.



Activities /actions

The Commission proposes to launch the technical development of the **Global Internet Policy Observatory** (GIPO) in 2014 as a resource for the global community.

The Commission calls on **stakeholders** to engage in capacity building in order to establish and **promote multistakeholder processes** in countries and regions where such processes are not or less developed.

The Commission, together with recipients, will continue in 2014 to **strengthen its development assistance programmes** in support of media development and freedom of expression, as well as technological, policy and regulatory capacity-building related to the Internet.



Activities /actions

The Commission will launch a **broad consultation**, of civil society, the technical and academic communities and European industry, as well as the European Parliament and Member States, on how to ensure adequate and transparent **multi-stakeholder involvement in the formulation of future European Internet governance policies**.

Activities /actions

The Commission, together with interested parties, including the European Internet industry, proposes to convene a series of **workshops** with **international experts** in law, ethics, social sciences, economics, international relations and technology. This expected output will be **concrete and actionable recommendations** to ensure **coherence** between **existing normative frameworks** and **new forms of Internet-enabled norm-setting**.

Activities /actions

The Commission encourages **all stakeholders** to strengthen (and where appropriate create) **structured mechanisms** to allow regular, early and truly inclusive **upstream participation, review and comment** in **technical decisions**. These structured mechanisms should also strive towards consistency of technical decisions with **human rights**



Activities /actions

The Commission will work with the Council and Parliament to achieve rapid adoption and implementation of **key legislation**, including the reform of the **data protection framework** and the proposed Directive on **network and information security**, in order to **strengthen trust online**.

The Commission is committed to working with partners to rebuild **trust in the Internet**, including through the **strengthening of its global governance**, which is an essential prerequisite for a sustainable future for an open Internet.



Activities /actions

The European Commission will launch an **in-depth review** of the **risks**, at international level, of **conflicts of laws and jurisdictions** arising on the **Internet** and assess **all** mechanisms, processes and tools available and necessary to **solve** such conflicts.

All options for action at the **Union** or **international** level will subsequently be carefully considered, including possible legislative initiatives or additional guidelines as needed, subject to appropriate impact assessments. **This work will build on existing policies.**

Conclusions

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A **safe, secure, sound** and **resilient** architecture is the basis for **trust** and **confidence** of Internet users. At the same time, the **innovation power of the Internet** must be maintained with the full participation of the European Internet economy, building on a strengthened digital single market interconnected to the world.



Conclusions

This requires careful yet robust

stewardship