

Internet Governance BAROMETER (MARCH 2016)

IG Barometer indicates the presence of specific IG issues in the public policy debate in comparison to the previous month

Global IG architecture



New appointments were made in relation to the IGF's Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), tasked to provide advice on IGF preparations. The UN Secretary-General appointed Lynn St Amour (USA) as chair; [the members of the renewed MAG were also announced.](#)

Sustainable development



The UN has issued a call for stakeholder contributions on key issues related to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). [The contributions will feed into the High-level Thematic Debate on achieving the SDGs, in New York next month.](#)

Security



The Apple/FBI case dominated the discussions on security, privacy, and encryption this month. The debate turned global, while testimonies of the main players continued. In a surprising U-turn, the US government asked the court to cancel the much-anticipated hearing of 22 March, stating it might have found a way to unlock the iPhone without Apple's help. [The government is expected to file a status report with the court by 5 April.](#)

Privacy and human rights



Similar debates on privacy and surveillance took place in the UK parliament over the Investigatory Powers Bill, [dubbed the Snoopers' Charter, which remains controversial due to its data retention requirements.](#)

The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy, Joseph Cannataci, presented the first report of his mandate at the 31st session of the Human Rights Council; developing safeguards without borders and remedies across borders is a key theme of the report, which proposes a ten-point action plan.

The French data protection regulator (Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés - CNIL) has fined Google €100,000 for failing to extend its delisting of search results across all of Google's domain name extensions.

The Article 29 Working Party is currently reviewing the legal texts issued by the European Commission [that will put in place the EU-US Privacy Shield.](#)

Infrastructure



New VoIP services are now blocked in Morocco, [further fuelling the controversy over banned VoIP services. Telecom providers have declared that the decision to ban VoIP calls, in place since January, was taken by the regulator.](#)

Google is currently in talks with Indian telecom operators to kickstart the Loon project in India. [The project uses balloons instead of land-based infrastructure to provide Internet access to rural areas. Google gained support from the Indian government early this year.](#)

This year's Global Encryption Trends Study reports that companies storing sensitive data in the cloud are increasingly encrypting such data.

Internet Governance BAROMETER (MARCH 2016)

IG Barometer indicates the presence of specific IG issues in the public policy debate in comparison to the previous month

Net neutrality



FCC rules put to the test: T-mobile adds more services to its Binge On service, which allows users to stream content that is not counted towards their data cap. [Verizon](#), AT&T, and Comcast offer similar packages.

After the zero-rating ruling, the Indian Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) will finalise a comprehensive review of net neutrality within the next few months, following a request by the country's Department of Telecommunications. [TRAI](#)

E-commerce and Internet economy



The UK's latest budget provides for tax relief for micro-entrepreneurs who sell their services online or rent their homes through the Internet. [UK](#) India is looking into expanding the so-called Google Tax through an 'equalising levy' of 6-8% on gross payment 'if the provider of the service is a foreign entity without a "permanent establishment" in India'. [India](#)

The European Commission's first findings of a sector inquiry on e-commerce reveal the widespread use of geo-blocking in Europe, [EU](#) while guidelines on how to apply existing EU legislation to the 'sharing economy' are expected to be published in June 2016. [EU](#)

Jurisdiction and legal issues



Six of the largest tech companies have criticised the Snoopers' Charter, as it attempts to establish extraterritorial jurisdiction, allowing the country to force companies to comply even if they are not based in the UK. [UK](#)

In a preliminary opinion, the Advocate General (AG) of the European Court of Justice has declared that operators of free public WiFi should not be held accountable for copyright infringements committed by users of their networks. [EU](#) If the Court confirms the AG's opinion, Germany could be forced to change its law that holds WiFi providers responsible for illegal activity.

IANA transition



The ICANN Board submitted its plan to transition stewardship of key Internet functions to the US government. [ICANN](#) The plan includes both the IANA stewardship transition proposal and the supplemental final proposal on ICANN accountability recommendations. The US government announced that it has contracted the Berkman Center at Harvard University to perform an independent review of the proposals by 30 June. [US](#)

Presented during the Geneva Internet Platform briefing on 29 March 2016. More: giplatform.org/briefings