



Internet Governance in **March 2018**

27 March 2018

Geneva Internet Platform



DiPLO

A look back: Main events in March

26 Feb-1 Mar.	GSMA Mobile World Congress 2018 (Barcelona)
28 Feb-2 Mar.	EBU Big Data Week 2018 (Geneva)
26 Feb-23 Mar.	UN Human Rights Council - 37th Session (Geneva)
5-9 Mar.	Internet Freedom Festival (Valencia)
6-7 Mar.	Council of Europe CoE on Human Rights Dimensions of Automated Data Processing and Different Forms of Artificial Intelligence – First Meeting
10-15 Mar.	ICANN61 (San Juan)
15-16 Mar.	4th Annual Blockchain Finance & Fin-tech China 2018 (Shanghai)
17-23 Mar.	IETF 101 (London)
19-22 Mar.	IGF 2018: First Open Consultations and MAG Meeting (Geneva)
19-23 Mar.	WSIS Forum Week (Geneva)
26 Mar.	International Conference on Cybersecurity Challenges (Sofia)

Visit dig.watch/past-events for details & reports

What happened in March?

Internet Governance BAROMETER (MARCH 2018)

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

Global IG Architecture



Preparations for the 2018 Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meeting kick-started with the first round of Open Consultation and a meeting of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group. [\[1\]](#)

Sustainable development



Digital technologies have an important role to play in achieving social and economic development goals, reiterated participants in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2018. [\[1\]](#)

Security



The US Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigations have publicly blamed Russia for conducting a 'multi-stage intrusion campaign', since at least March 2016, targeted at governmental entities and several organisations operating in critical infrastructure sectors. [\[1\]](#)

Expedia has found evidence of hackers gaining access to as many as 880 000 credit cards by hacking into an older version of Orbitz's website, a travel booking platform now a subsidiary of Expedia. [\[1\]](#)

The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation has ruled that instant messaging service Telegram must share its private encryption keys with Russian authorities. [\[1\]](#) Telegram plans to appeal the ruling.

E-commerce and Internet economy



In Turkey, taxi drivers are accusing Uber of operating an unlicensed taxi service in the country. [\[1\]](#) In Egypt, a court has temporarily suspended the licences of Uber and competitor Careem, in a case filed last year by 42 taxi drivers. [\[1\]](#) In other locations, such as in London [\[1\]](#) and in Barcelona, [\[1\]](#) Uber is working to bring its services in line with local regulations.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has launched its interim report on tax challenges arising from digitalisation. [\[1\]](#) While over 100 countries have agreed to review the current international tax system [\[1\]](#), some disparity of positions needs to be tackled.

The European Commission also presented its proposals for digital tax reform: a long-term proposal to adjust corporate tax rules so that profits are taxed where companies

interact with users, and a short-term solution for a 3% interim tax on revenue from digital activities. [\[1\]](#)

US President Donald Trump signed a presidential memorandum laying out the possibility of hefty tariffs on imports from select Chinese technology and industrial sectors, as well as the launch of a WTO legal case to 'address China's unfair trade practices' [\[1\]](#)

In Belarus, the Ministry of Finance paved the way for the use of cryptocurrencies in the country. [\[1\]](#) The Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com unveiled a white paper detailing its plans to introduce blockchain in its operations, with the launch a new blockchain-as-a-service (BaaS) platform. [\[1\]](#)

Internet Governance BAROMETER (MARCH 2018)

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

Digital rights



Political data firm Cambridge Analytica obtained the data of 30 million Facebook users, constructed personality profiles, and sold the data which was then used to influence voters in the USA and UK, without the users' consent. Although this was revealed in 2015, a former employee of the firm came forward this month with more details, placing Facebook's practices under intense scrutiny.

The European Commission is reportedly planning to include digital services that collect users' data under the EU consumer protection rules, extending consumers rights to users of 'digital services provided in exchange for personal data'.

The Nigerian Senate passed the Digital Rights and Freedom Bill, containing provisions for the protection on human rights online. The bill is to be signed by the country's president before becoming law.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has proposed an interim model for ensuring that generic top-level domain (gTLD) registries and registrars comply with ICANN policies and contractual requirements regarding domain name registration data, while at the same time being in line with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The registries for .at (Austria) and .lt (Latvia) also announced changes to their domain name registration policies and framework agreements with registrars, to bring them in line with the GDPR.

A report published by Interpol and ECPAT International shows that boys and very young children are at greater risk of severe online sexual abuse, and calls for more resources to be put into better understanding online exploitation and identifying victims.

In a Resolution on the right to privacy in the digital age, the UN Human Rights Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy for a period of three years.

Jurisdiction and legal issues



The European Commission has recommended a set of operational measures for states and the Internet industry to improve their response to illegal online content, including 'terrorist content, incitement to hatred and violence, child sexual abuse material, counterfeit products and copyright infringement'.

The French Prime Minister has announced that the country will toughen its stance against hate speech to make sure that social media companies remove racist content

from the Internet more proactively. The Turkish parliament has passed a bill that will allow the country's radio and television watchdog to supervise online video content.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) handled 3074 domain name cyber-squatting cases filed by trademark owners in 2017 under ICANN's Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy. Almost one-third of all disputes were related to banking and finance, fashion, and Internet and information technology.

Infrastructure



A report published by the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), World Wide Web Foundation, and UN Women reveals that US\$408 million collected to expand Internet access across Africa has been left unused. The report calls for governments to invest at least 50% of funds in projects targeting women's Internet access and use.

The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) intends to allocate almost USD954 million towards restoring and expanding communications networks in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

According to a timeline prepared by the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Working Group, ICANN could, in a best-case scenario, open up a call for applications for new gTLDs in the first quarter of 2021.

Internet Governance BAROMETER (MARCH 2018)

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

Net neutrality



same relevance

The Coalition for Internet Openness – composed of technology companies Automattic, Etsy, Expa, Foursquare, Kickstarter, and Shutterstock – filed a petition against the US FCC over its decision to roll back the 2015 net neutrality rules. In California, a bill was introduced in the state senate to enforce net neutrality rules at the state level, demonstrating that states continue their efforts to preserve net neutrality, despite a provision in the FCC's Open Internet Order preventing them from passing their own rules.

The UK regulatory authority for electronic communications, OFCOM, has launched an investigation into the traffic management practices of two Internet service providers – Vodafone and Three – to determine whether they are compliant with the EU Open Internet Access Regulation.

New technologies (IoT, AI, etc.)



increasing relevance

An autonomous Uber test car driving in Arizona (USA) was involved in a fatal accident. This has led to concerns about safety, liability, and insurance issues around autonomous cars. Researchers at Stanford University have developed a laser-based system that could allow driverless cars to notice unexpected obstacles before they come into view.

In the USA, authorities in Arizona and California have introduced regulations outlining the conditions under which fully autonomous vehicles can be tested and operated on public roads, without safety drivers on board. The UK government announced a three-year review into existing driving legislation, to identify 'any legal obstacles to the widespread introduction of self-driving vehicles and highlight the need for regulatory reforms'.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Cabinet has created a Council for Artificial Intelligence (AI), tasked with overseeing the integration of AI into the governmental and educational sectors. A bill was introduced in the US Congress to create a National Security Commission on AI. The European Commission has announced plans to form a High-Level Expert Group on AI and an Expert Group on liability and new technologies.

Microsoft researchers announced that they have created what they believe to be 'the first machine translation system that can translate sentences of news articles from Chinese to English with the same quality and accuracy as a person'.



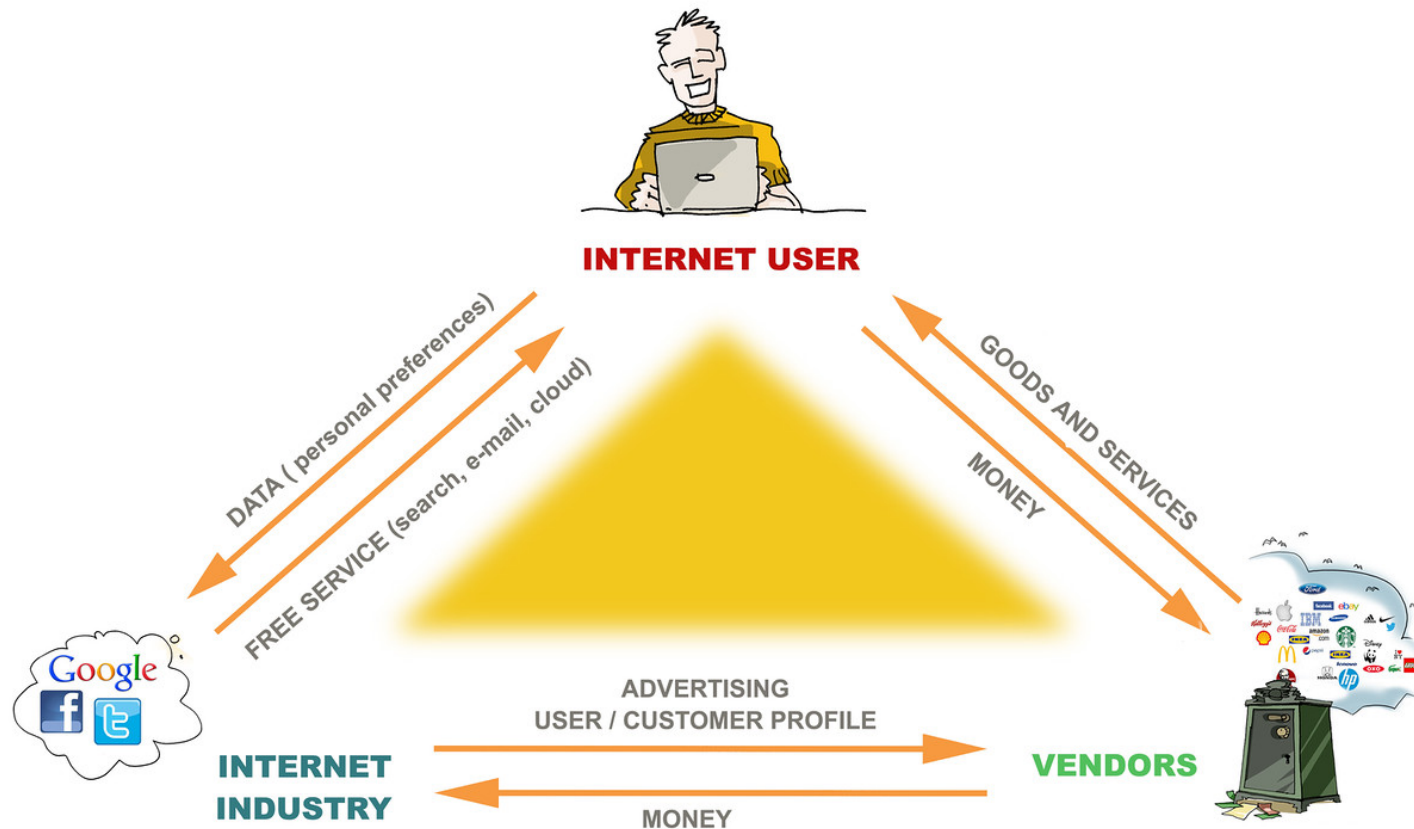
**Which were the
main digital policy trends?**

**Looking back at Q1
Zooming in to March**

Q1 in review: Digital in focus



Q1 in review: Dealing with tech backlash

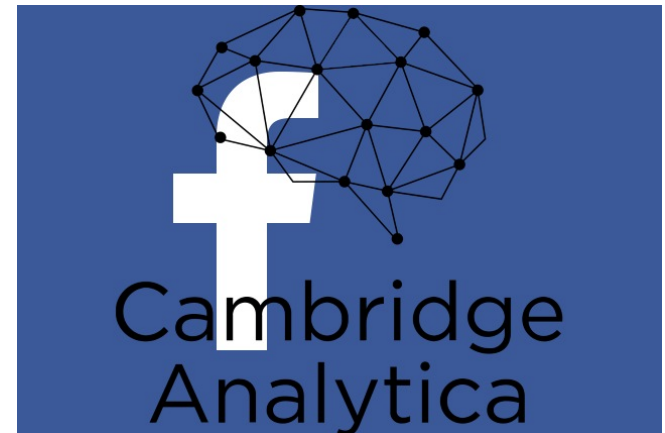


Concept: Jovan Kurbalija Illustration: Vladimir Veljašević

1. C/Analytica case puts Facebook under scrutiny



- Data of 270,000 Facebook users was collected in 2014 from app 'thisismydigitallife'; app was able to access profiles of 50m+ friends' accounts
- Researcher violated agreement by giving the data to Cambridge Analytica; firm matched data of 30m users with other records to construct personality profiles
- Data sold to US politicians' presidential campaigns and Brexit campaigns
- Facebook and industry under scrutiny over implications: ethical, legal, economic, security, consumer protection



2. Taxation: EC proposals & OECD report

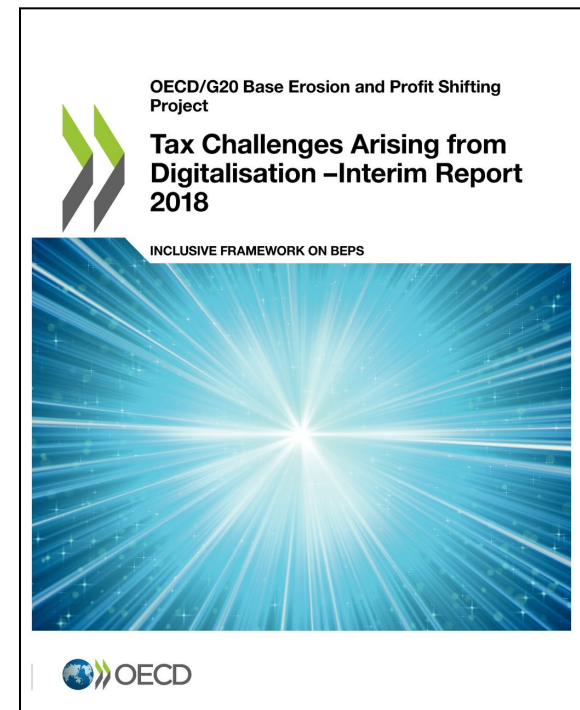


European Commission makes two proposals:

- (a) Tax on profits made by companies operating in Europe, based on digital presence/virtual permanent establishment
- (b) An interim tax on revenues of large companies where users play a major role in value creation.

OECD interim report:

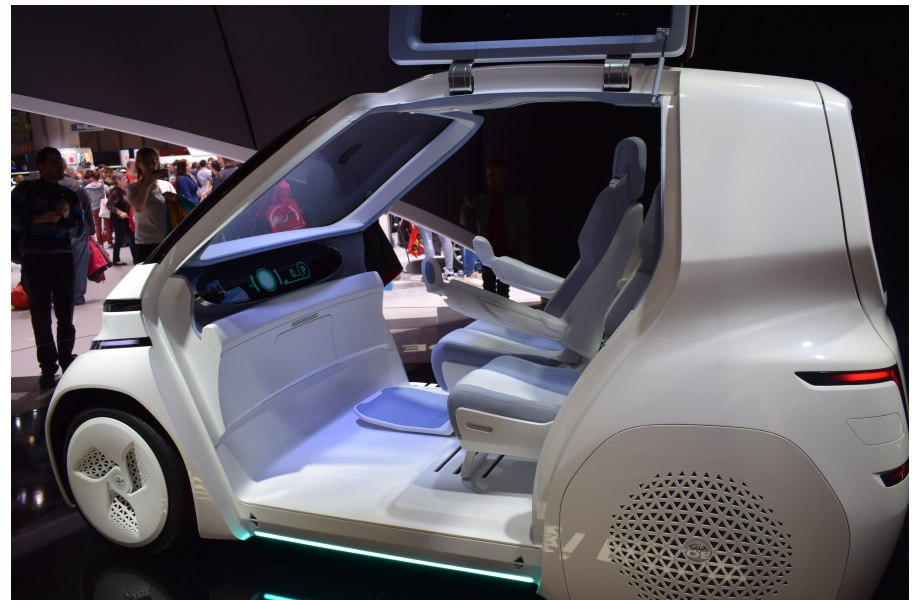
- Describes complexities of issues
- Highlights lack of consensus



3. Autonomous car accident raises security issues



- First fatality in Arizona, US. Investigations ongoing: unavoidable accident or human error? Uber suspends its tests
- New developments: Researchers at Stanford Univ. develop laser-based system to allow driverless cars to notice unexpected obstacles before they come into view
- Regulations: US states outline conditions for testing autonomous vehicles on public roads, without safety drivers; UK starts review of current legislation to allow for widespread introduction of self-driving vehicles



Upcoming: Main events in April

6 Apr.	Russian Internet Governance Forum 2018 (St Petersburg)
9-13 Apr.	CCW Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems – First 2018 Meeting (Geneva)
12-13 Apr.	ITU Expert Group on International Telecommunication Regulations – 4th Meeting (Geneva)
16-20 Apr.	UNCTAD E-commerce Week 2018 (Geneva)
17-19 Apr.	Geographic Information System for a Sustainable World (Geneva)
17-27 Apr.	ITU Council – 2018 Session (Geneva)
26-27 Apr.	Second European Multidisciplinary Conference on Global Internet Governance Actors, Regulations, Transactions and Strategies - GIG-ARTS (Cardiff)
27 Apr.	Physics Meets Blockchain - 1st Discussion Workshop (Geneva)

Visit dig.watch/events for details

From the Geneva Internet Platform & DiploFoundation

New reports

- WSIS Forum Summary Report + reports from sessions during the week
<https://dig.watch/wsisforum2018>

Upcoming

- 31 March: March's Geneva Digital Watch newsletter <https://dig.watch/newsletter>
- 9-12 April: Diplo director/GIP head in New York for course launch
- 16-20 April: Reporting from UNCTAD E-Commerce Week
<https://dig.watch/unctad18>
- 24 April: April's briefing on Internet governance <https://dig.watch/briefing-apr18>

Local hubs & regional perspectives

More: dig.watch/briefing-mar18