

From Tunis to Vilnius: **the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Internet Governance Forum process**

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES
Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)

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FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The Internet – key to freedom, democracy and social and economic development

In just a few years, the Internet has undoubtedly turned into one of the most dynamic communication tools the world has ever seen. The flow of information that it facilitates strengthens democratic processes, stimulates economic growth and allows for cross-fertilizing exchanges of knowledge and creativity in a way never seen before. Since the time this powerful tool of development was first introduced, the Internet has undergone profound changes. The number of Internet users is now close to 2 billion, and it is estimated that another 1 billion will be online by 2015 – half of the world's population. Indeed, in some countries, particularly in developed regions, the Internet is already deeply woven into the economic and social fabric of the society. However, the benefits of the Internet must be shared by all the world's citizens. Internet is for all. The European Union, which is already the world's largest donor of development aid, will continue to work on bridging the digital divide among countries, just like it is promoting action to fill this gap in its own population.

The Internet can only continue to drive democracy and economic development if freedom of expression and the freedom to receive and access information are guaranteed. The EU has a long-standing commitment to the Internet as an open global public good. A key objective for the EU is therefore to keep the Internet as an open and censorship-free zone where all the world's citizens can communicate freely with each other in line with internationally recognised fundamental rights. This EU commitment has been enshrined in its telecom laws: rules governing access to Internet in particular those related to the ability of users to access and distribute information or services of their choice must comply with the EU Charter of fundamental rights.

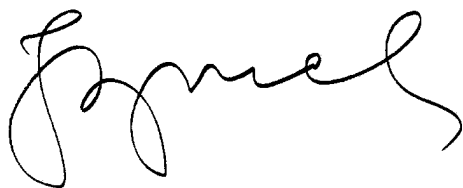
In 2005 in Tunis, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) committed to building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The WSIS foresaw also the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as a platform for democratic, transparent and multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on a wide range of issues related to Internet governance.

Since its inception the European Union has been a strong supporter of the IGF and the open, global and multi-stakeholder approach it represents. The European Union delegations, led by the European Commission –this time represented by its Vice-President Neelie Kroes– have participated in all the fora held so far, and they have played a pivotal role in the promotion of European values and the interaction with civil society, the private sector and governments. In particular, the Members of the European Parliament, together with representatives from national parliaments and the Council of Europe have contributed to raising the parliamentary profile at these events and to a new form of participatory democracy.

During the consultations at the 2009 IGF Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt) meeting participants expressed their overwhelming support for the continuation of the Forum.

The European Union supports the continuation and development of the IGF model by preserving its main characteristics as a non-binding, multi-stakeholder process and remaining as an open fora for dialogue and exchange of best practices between governments, civil society and the private sector based on the principles of transparency, multilateralism, democracy and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We are particularly pleased that, five years after the first meeting of the Forum in Athens, the IGF comes back to the European Union, to Vilnius. We want to thank the United Nations and the Lithuanian hosts for making the necessary preparatory arrangements to ensure that the Internet Governance Forum will be a success. We would like to wish all the participants of this Forum success in their endeavours and debates, controversial though they may be. The future of the Internet will very much depend on such an open dialogue and on the willingness of all interested parties to cooperate in a spirit of collaboration and mutual understanding.



Jerzy Buzek

President of the European Parliament



Jose Manuel Barroso

President of the European Commission

1 MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION



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Sabine VERHEYEN

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2 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ATTENDING THE FORUM



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Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, Lithuania



Malcolm HARBOUR

European Conservatives and Reformists, United Kingdom

3 THE VOICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

**SPEECHES BY NEELIE KROES,
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND
COMMISSIONER FOR THE DIGITAL AGENDA**

Video speech by Vice-President Kroes to the 13th session of the ECOSOC - Commission on Science and Technology for Development (Geneva) in May 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for giving me the possibility to address you today. Unfortunately, I cannot be with you in person. I would like to nevertheless take the opportunity to share with you some thoughts, specifically about one of the issues on your agenda: the continuation of the Internet Governance Forum.

The IGF is now at an important stage in its development and therefore I would like to highlight briefly some points:

The Internet Governance Forum works well. Back in 2005, at the time of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis, some may have thought it would be difficult to experiment fruitful discussions in such a large scale and open forum. They were wrong. By now, it is widely acknowledged that the IGF has developed into a unique platform allowing interaction between stakeholders of Internet Governance, at global level.

Let me stress that I also consider the non-binding character of the IGF as one of its most valuable characteristics. This allows for open and free exchanges among stakeholders. It creates an atmosphere where anyone can openly share thoughts about challenges and at the same time look for possible solutions with a free mind. This non-binding character does not mean that the IGF has no impact. Indeed, new ideas that emerged in the IGF context have been implemented in other binding fora. At the same time, the IGF provides a space to address also controversial issues and have discussions on future developments. The free choice of themes for discussion leaves no place for taboos in internet governance-related issues, be it, for instance, “enhance cooperation” or “freedom of speech”.

The widest participation in the IGF is another feature that strikes me as a clear sign of its success. The ever increasing attendance at IGF meetings is one obvious indicator. But the diversity of views thus expressed is equally important: the IGF gathers representatives from all geographic regions, across all stakeholder groups, ready to discuss all aspects of Internet Governance. Again, this is quite unique at the international level.

The proof that the IGF concept works well can also be seen at another scale: there is now a growing number of local and regional fora, which follow the model of the IGF at their level. And they interact with the IGF: they are at the same time resulting from the IGF and contributing to it. In my view, this is another demonstration of the positive feedback the IGF receives in so many parts of the world.

Yet, does it mean that there is no room for improvement? Of course not. We would all welcome more visibility and a greater outreach to stakeholders from all continents. I believe that those are goals we can all contribute to. And Europe wishes to continue to play its part, as an equal partner within the international community. And again, I trust that solutions to reach those objectives may well emerge from within the IGF framework, in the run up to the Vilnius edition of the IGF this year.

All things consider such organisational questions are important but cannot distract us from the most important question that is ahead of us this year: should the IGF be continued? YES, is Europe's clear answer to this question.

Allowing for a continuation of the IGF is fully consistent with the principles and timeline established by the Tunis Agenda. This would enable us to further expand its potential as a platform for dialogue between all relevant stakeholders.

Therefore the IGF should be continued and maintain its current non-binding multi-stakeholder characteristic. At the same time, I would like to mention our endeavour to ensure that Internet Governance continues to evolve in line with the principles established in the Tunis Agenda, such as transparency, multilateralism, democracy and the full involvement of all stakeholders.

Thank you very much for your attention and I wish you all fruitful exchanges.

Speech by Vice-President Kroes to ICANN's 38th International Meeting (Brussels) in June 2010

The need for accountability in Internet governance

Good morning everybody,

I know many of you have been working hard over the weekend already. But it is not too late to offer you a warm welcome to Brussels.

You are the heart of the “Internet Community”!

And you have come a long way in just a few years: from the days when John Postel was running the IANA functions out of his office to today's event, gathering hundreds of key stakeholders. When any one-person operation grows into a bigger community, it is important to keep asking if the accompanying organisations and their working methods are on the right track.

Some communities develop into closed or exclusive circles over the years. I am glad that this is not the case here. You will even meet this week as an event open to the public. I trust that by opening a dialogue with the wider public – whether you are a private or public sector stakeholder – you will find new and better ways to reinforce your structures and decision-making processes. The same applies for the Internet Governance Forum: this multi-stakeholder approach has proved successful; it must continue and evolve to serve the purposes of the Tunis Agenda.

Indeed, we must ensure that technical changes add to the Internet's value as a common public good, rather than accidentally detract from it. From the perspective of public authorities such as my own, it is our duty to advise ICANN about where the public interest lies. But when freedom of speech and human rights on the internet are at stake, it is not just public authorities that have a role to play. Take, for instance, the Global Network Initiative and the position taken by Hilary Clinton in promoting information freedom vis-à-vis internet companies. I very much welcome these initiatives, which are also finding an echo in Europe.

For this is a collective duty for all Internet stakeholders – be they public or private.

We need rules that make the decisions accountable, transparent and efficient; and that guarantee a mutual respect for the common good.

Nowadays, how could any organisation with global responsibilities not be accountable to all of us?

In this respect, just like the EU welcomed the openings made in the Affirmation of Commitment last year, I am hopeful that the expiry of the IANA contract next year will be turned into an opportunity for more international cooperation serving the global public interest.

But don't misunderstand me: the Internet day-to-day functioning works well and I am the first to say “if it isn't broken, don't fix it!” We all have an interest that this wonderful platform for innovation, entrepreneurship and free expression works perfectly well at the technical level. It is a great adventure that must continue to flourish.

Yet does it mean all is well in the cyberworld?

Take the issue of security and resilience: we need to fight against spam, identity theft, phishing and other evolving types of crime on the Internet. Both the public and private sectors have a joint obligation to act. This approach has to go hand-in-hand with ensuring the Internet itself is not vulnerable to any large scale failure, whether as a result of an accident or a deliberate attack.

Another issue, that will be debated this week, is the expansion of the number of generic Top Level Domains. Such additions are probably irreversible. So these steps need to be taken carefully, taking into consideration more than just immediate commercial interests. Managing this expansion and avoiding chaos will be a big challenge. In a sense, it will be a test of ICANN's governance and I recall that the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) had already provided advice on public policy principles to the ICANN Board as early as 2007.

The IDN is another of those important subjects – for it is essential that the Internet reflects the diversity of our languages. You are certainly familiar with the success of Europe's "dot.eu" domain name. I trust that Cyrillic and Greek script versions of "dot.eu" will soon be introduced at the Top Level as well, to complete the IDN.

There are many other issues worth mentioning, but I won't take any more of your time. I hope to see some of you in person at the gala event on Wednesday. For now, you have my best wishes for your discussions this week. You can count on the positive contribution of the EU in that endeavour.

4 THE VOICE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

4.1 Internet governance: the next steps

European Parliament resolution of 15 June 2010 on internet governance: the next steps

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission Communication entitled ‘internet governance: the next steps’ (COM(2009)0277),
 - having regard to the Commission Communication entitled ‘Protecting Europe from large scale cyber-attacks and disruptions: enhancing preparedness, security and resilience’ (COM(2009)0149),
 - having regard to its resolution of 14 October 1998 on globalisation and the information society: the need for strengthened international coordination¹,
 - having regard to its resolution of 19 February 2001 on the organisation and management of the internet - international and European policy issues 1998-2000²,
 - having regard to its resolution of 2 April 2001 on the next generation internet: the need for an EU research initiative³,
 - having regard to its resolution of 23 June 2005 on the information society⁴,
 - having regard to its resolution of 15 December 2005 on human rights and freedom of the press in Tunisia and evaluation of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunisia⁵,
 - having regard to its resolution of 6 July 2006 on freedom of expression on the internet⁶,
 - having regard to its resolution of 17 January 2008 on the second Internet Governance Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro from 12 to 15 November 2007⁷,
 - having regard to its recommendation to the Council of 26 March 2009 on strengthening security and fundamental freedoms on the Internet⁸,
 - having regard to Rule 48 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the opinions of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, the Committee on Culture and Education, the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A7-0185/2010),
- A. whereas the internet is a critical global means of communication with a tremendous impact on society as whole,
- B. whereas internet governance involves issues relating to protection and guarantee of fundamental rights and freedoms, access to and use of the internet and its vulnerability to cyber attack, etc.,
- C. whereas cybercrime is posing an increasing threat to societies that rely on ICT, and whereas incitement to commit terrorist attacks, hate-based crimes, and child pornography have increased and are endangering individuals including children,
- D. whereas the intersection between cybercrime, internet jurisdiction and cloud computing as an emerging internet governance aspect at the European level is of great importance,

¹ OJ C 104, 14.04.1999, p. 128.

² OJ C 343, 05.12.2001, p. 286.

³ OJ C 027 E, 31.01.2002, p. 84.

⁴ OJ C 133 E, 08.06.2006, p. 140.

⁵ OJ C 286 E, 23.11.2006, p.495.

⁶ OJ C 303 E, 13.12.2006, p.879.

⁷ OJ C 41 E, 19.2.2009, p.80.

⁸ Texts adopted, P6_TA(2009)0194.

- E. whereas aspects of internet governance concern internet addressing and other predominantly technical issues, in which areas entities such as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Regional Internet Registries and other entities are active,
 - F. whereas, in connection with internet governance, the private sector has so far had a prevailing and positive guiding role; whereas, however, the role of public bodies should be strengthened when defining overall strategy,
 - G. whereas governments have an important role regarding broader governance aspects in defence of the public interest, in particular to protect and guarantee fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as regarding the security, integrity and resilience of the internet, while the private sector assumes a crucial role in providing the necessary investment, expertise and entrepreneurial initiative,
 - H. whereas the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and various national and regional fora are important arenas for multi-stakeholder internet policy dialogue,
 - I. whereas the European Parliament and the other European institutions have a long-standing commitment to the internet as an open global public good,
1. Considers that the internet is a global public good and as such its governance should be exercised in the common interest;
 2. Recognises that the internet is essential for the practical exercise of freedom of expression, cultural diversity, media pluralism and democratic citizenship, as well as for education and access to information, thus constituting one of the principal vectors for the dissemination of democratic values in the world;
 3. Recalls that the internet has become an indispensable tool for promoting democratic initiatives, political debate, digital literacy and the dissemination of knowledge; reiterates that access to the internet both guarantees and depends upon the exercise of a number of key fundamental rights including, but not limited to, respect for private life, data protection, freedom of expression, speech and association, freedom of the press, political expression and participation, non-discrimination, education and cultural and linguistic diversity; underlines that institutions and stakeholders at all levels therefore have a general responsibility to assist in ensuring that everyone can exercise their right to participate in the information society - particularly the elderly, who face more problems in familiarising themselves with the new technologies - while simultaneously attacking the twin challenges of e-illiteracy and democratic exclusion in the electronic age;
 4. Underlines especially the need to enhance the evolution of 'bottom-up' approaches and of e-democracy, while simultaneously ensuring that significant safeguards are established against new forms of surveillance, control and censorship by public or private actors, so that the freedom of internet access and the protection of private life are real and not illusory;
 5. Underlines the need to protect and promote the European cultural heritage, including through the internet; takes the view that the internet plays a vital role in stimulating innovation and reducing the digital, social and cultural divide in Europe by comparison with other parts of the world; welcomes the fact that the Commission understands the importance of 'bridging the digital divide' and the development issues involved in internet governance; considers, however, that the focus must also be on the many older citizens in both the developed and developing world who often feel left behind in this new online world; notes that the internet can be an effective tool of social inclusion and that our older citizens must be included; urges that action be taken to promote education on the use of the resources offered by the internet and the selection of criteria on how to use those resources;
 6. Recognises that the intensified use of the internet by citizens, consumers, companies and authorities implies that this communication instrument is becoming one of the fundamental elements of the completion of the internal market within the EU; stresses in this context the need for appropriate protection of consumers and intellectual property rights holders on the internet; also stresses that internet users' civil rights and freedoms must be guaranteed; recognises the importance of the internet as a way of providing information on and promoting consumers' rights;
 7. Emphasises that internet governance should facilitate e-commerce and cross-border transactions by decentralising the self-regulatory roles, especially in setting entry conditions for new competitors;
 8. Calls for easier access to and development of the internet in newer Member States, particularly in rural areas, and in developing countries, through programmes funded by the European Union; further calls for these countries to be granted greater influence in shaping internet governance policy;

9. Considers that, to safeguard the EU interest in maintaining the internet as a global public good, internet governance should be based on a broad, balanced public-private sector model, avoiding dominance by any individual entity or group of entities and attempts by state or supra-national authorities to control the flow of information on the internet, while interacting with multi-stakeholder processes on internet governance which continue to provide an effective mechanism for promoting global cooperation;
10. Underlines that the values on which the Union is founded, as expressed in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, are core values and end goals of the European Union; calls on the European Commission and the Member States therefore to ensure that all activities related to internet governance comply with these values and goals, in particular in those global internet governance fora where countries whose values differ greatly from those of Europe take part; considers that, in the interest of avoiding conflict, international dialogue should be stepped up with these countries in the area of internet regulation;
11. Considers that governments should focus on issues vital to global internet public policy as private sector leadership needs to be based on respect for public policy principles and existing legislation and otherwise adhere to a principle of non-intervention, except as may be necessary in exceptional circumstances, and that even then their action should respect fundamental human rights and the proportionality principle;
12. Considers that governments should avoid involvement in day-to-day internet management, abstain from harming innovation and competition by unnecessary, burdensome and restrictive regulation and not try to control what is and should remain a global public property;
13. Calls on governments to desist from imposing restrictions on internet access by way of censorship, blocking, filtering or otherwise, and from requiring private entities to do so; insists on safeguarding an open internet, where users are able to access and distribute information or run applications and services of their choice as provided for by the reformed electronic communications regulatory framework;
14. Stresses that any restrictions deemed indispensable should be limited to the minimum necessary in a democratic society, should be based on law, and should be effective and proportionate; stresses that protection of minors must be guaranteed, and invites Member States to also take measures, for example using the public interest notice system available under **Directive 2009/136/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 amending Directive 2002/22/EC, Directive 2002/58/EC and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 as regards users' rights (Citizens' Rights Directive)**⁹ to enable minors to make responsible use of internet and on-line information services, and to improve the level of awareness of potential threats posed by new services;
15. Calls for more initiatives to strengthen the safe exploration of the internet by children, to disseminate best practices worldwide, and to reinforce international cooperation in the fight against harmful and illegal content online, particularly with regard to the sexual abuse of children on the internet;
16. Takes also into consideration the special need to protect vulnerable persons, particularly minors, through a joint action by public and private stakeholders; reiterates that when combating cybercrime and child pornography, criminal content should be deleted at the source before considering websites being blocked;
17. Considers that, in addition to the governance principles set out by the Commission, governments should also implement the following principles:
 - (i) transparency, multilateralism, democracy and protection of fundamental rights and freedoms meeting EU standards;
 - (ii) respect for an open, interoperable, technologically neutral and 'end-to-end' nature of internet infrastructure,
 - (iii) external public accountability of private-sector entities managing global internet resources on a day-to-day basis,
 - (iv) promotion of global internet governance through interaction with and further encouragement of multi-stakeholder processes, also addressing the need to improve the participation of developing countries;
 - (v) protection of the integrity of the global internet and freedom of communication by avoiding any regional measures, such as revocation of IP addresses or domain names in third countries;
18. Stresses that the EU should develop a consensus implementation of the fundamental principles of internet governance and defend it firmly in international fora and bilateral relations;

⁹ OJ L 337, 18.12.2009, p. 11.

19. Welcomes the internet governance aspects of the Spanish Presidency's 'Granada Strategy', and the provisions of Parliament's report on a new Digital Agenda for Europe: 2015.eu¹⁰ on drawing up a European Charter of Citizens' and consumers' rights in the digital environment and developing a 'Fifth Freedom' that enables the free circulation of content and knowledge;
20. Notes the US government's new 'internet Policy 3.0' announced on 24 February 2010;
21. Stresses that the EU should address three critical public policy issues:
 - (i) protection of internet infrastructure to safeguard openness, availability, security and resilience against cyber attacks,
 - (ii) European dependencies on dominant market solutions and associated public security risks, and
 - (iii) protection of data and privacy, in particular as regards the establishment of effective international mechanisms for dispute resolution; calls on the Commission to submit a proposal for the adaptation of the Data Protection Directive to the current digital environment;
22. Calls on Member States, in coordination with the Commission, to ensure protection of internet infrastructure against threats and incidents through a harmonised EU approach and by completing the establishment of national emergency response teams and cooperation mechanisms between them;
23. Calls on the Commission and Member States to step up their efforts towards increasing the security of cyberspace within the EU as well as adequately participating in the international cooperation on this issue and stresses the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to provide a better understanding and awareness of cybercrime jurisdiction and cloud computing, based on an equal level basis and the establishment of clear obligations and responsibilities for each of the stakeholders;
24. Stresses the importance of the security of electronic services, especially of electronic signatures, and of the need for the creation of the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) at Pan-European level, and calls on the Commission to set up a European Validation Authorities Gateway in order to ensure the cross-border interoperability of electronic signatures and to increase the security of transactions carried out using the internet;
25. Calls on the Commission to provide clear guidance to Member States that have not ratified and implemented the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime in order to engage all Member States in a cooperative effort to fight cybercrime and spam, to enhance users' confidence and to secure the European Union's cyberspace against all kinds of crimes and offences; urges all Member States to ratify and implement the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime;
26. Calls on all Member States to ratify and implement the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism which would allow the development of a basis for international cooperation in countering the terrorist use of the internet in the form of large-scale attacks on and through computer systems which threaten national security, public safety or economic well-being;
27. Recommends in addition that the Commission and Member States work towards enhanced security and stability of the internet through measures aimed at increasing network and system diversity through the application of competition law, EU standards and procurement policy, as well as by:
 - (i) supporting ICANN's work on security and stability of the domain name system,
 - (ii) supporting work in international fora such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations and the Council of Europe on improved legislative frameworks and national coordination;
28. Stresses that the success of social networks, together with the internet's technical capacities in terms of memory and data processing, is giving rise to problems of data retention and the use of archived data; deplores the fact, in this respect, that there is currently no 'right to forget' on the internet;
29. Stresses the need to find a suitable balance between protecting users' privacy and recording personal data;
30. Deplores the fact that increasing use of internet networks does not yet go hand in hand with rules allowing users to manage the personal data they put on those networks;
31. Observes that transparent and responsible internet management can play an important part in supervision of the way in which search engines handle information worldwide;

¹⁰ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2010)0133.

32. Calls on the Commission to present a proposal to extend the application of Regulation (EC) No 864/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on the law applicable to non-contractual obligations (Rome II)¹¹ to include violations of data protection and privacy, and on the Council to authorise negotiations with a view to concluding an international agreement enabling effective redress by EU individuals in case of violations of their rights under EU law to data protection and privacy;
33. Supports the promotion of the 'privacy by design' principle, according to which privacy and data protection requirements should be introduced as soon as possible in the life cycle of new technological developments, assuring citizens a safe and user-friendly environment;
34. Points out that website security certification is becoming necessary to give consumers greater confidence in accessing online information and services;
35. Stresses that EU institution, bodies and Member States should coordinate their approach to internet governance in the various International bodies that deal with it, such as ICANN and its advisory bodies including the Government Advisory Committee (GAC);
36. Stresses the role of the European Network and Information Society Agency (ENISA) in the creation of a single European information space; notes that ENISA can play an important role, in particular with respect to preventing, addressing and responding to network and information security problems, and welcomes the Commission's forthcoming proposal for modernising ENISA;
37. Underlines the need to further increase the effectiveness of ENISA by:
 - identifying the research priorities, on a European level, in the areas of networking resilience and in network and information security, and offering knowledge of industry needs to potential research institutions;
 - drawing the attention of decision-makers to new technologies in security-related areas;
 - developing forums for information-sharing and provide support to Member States;
38. Emphasises that ENISA's support is focused on Member States with particular needs and recommends that ENISA continues developing forums for sharing of information between Member States and others;
39. Considers that the Commission has a central role to play in initiating and coordinating all aspects relating to the internal EU organisation to ensure a coherent EU approach, including with respect to the IGF;
40. Suggests the Commission should build capacity for genuine European civil society representation in international internet governance fora and internet standards organisations or consortia;
41. Requests the Commission to facilitate the adoption of a coherent and comprehensive EU approach at IGF and other major internet governance events by submitting a draft EU position document well in advance of each such event to the European Parliament and Council for debate;
42. Supports the continuation and development of the IGF model on a global, regional - including EuroDIG - and national level, by preserving its main characteristics as a non-binding multistakeholder process and remaining as open fora for dialogue and exchange of best practices between governments, civil society and the private sector and a new form of participatory democracy;
43. Stresses the importance of co-opting Asian actors in talks on internet governance, taking account of the specific nature of the Asian market;
44. Stresses the need also to involve end consumers in the process of creating a model of governance, placing the emphasis on cooperation between universities and the business world at local, regional and national level;
45. Recommends improving the IGF in the following ways:
 - (i) increased participation of developing countries, with attention paid to funding of their participation,
 - (ii) heightened visibility in the media,

¹¹ OJ L 199, 31.7.2007, p. 40.

- (iii) more efficient organisation of meetings, e.g. by a reduction in the number of simultaneous meetings, the establishment of a stable platform to facilitate global participation, and greater multilingualism,
- (iv) better coordination and cooperation between global, regional and national internet governance fora, and
- (v) deepened cooperation between the European Parliament and national parliaments by using all technological means available such as video-conferences as well as the Inter-parliamentary EU-Information Exchange (IPEX);
- 46. Supports the work of the Commission and the Spanish and Belgian Presidencies as regards the Vilnius IGF meeting in September 2010, and calls for an increased participation of the European Parliament;
- 47. Supports in general the Commission's position in favour of the current ICANN management model based on private-sector leadership;
- 48. Recognises that ICANN has succeeded in guaranteeing the stability of the Domain Name System;
- 49. Supports the continuation of the recently started process by ICANN to assign domain names in alphabets different from the Latin alphabet;
- 50. Calls for a new generic top-level domain for cultural organisations, outlets, media and artists, for example, '.culture' or '.art';
- 51. Calls for greater accountability of private companies which register and distribute domain names, carrying out a service which society has become largely dependent upon; considers in this context that there is a need to establish a common set of criteria to follow, with a view to increasing transparency and ensuring that such companies take on increasing responsibilities;
- 52. Calls on the .eu registrar EURid to conduct a thorough media and on-line campaign to promote the .eu domain across the Member States to facilitate the development of a European on-line environment based on the values, characteristics and policies of the European Union;
- 53. Underlines the importance of the GAC in ICANN's policy-making process and recommends that the effectiveness of the GAC is strengthened among other things through the establishment of a secretariat with adequate support capabilities; and considers it important for each EU Member State to take an active part in the work of this committee;
- 54. Considers that improvements to ICANN should be made by:
 - (i) the introduction - while reviewing the performance of existing dispute resolution mechanisms (Independent Review Panel and ICANN Ombudsman) - of an alternative, external dispute resolution mechanism allowing interested parties effective, neutral, timely and affordable review of ICANN decisions,
 - (ii) a gradually implemented diversified funding structure, with funding from any one entity or sector capped, in order to prevent undue influence over ICANN's activities by any individual entity or group of entities;
 - (iii) appropriate representation of all interested parties in ICANN,
 - (iv) ensuring that ICANN's board and top management represent a range of interests and regions;
 - (v) use of a reasonable part of its reserve fund in order to boost civil society's participation to internet governance fora (especially from developing countries);
- 55. Endorses the Commission's view that IANA arrangements should include mechanisms for multilateral accountability, and affirms that in future no single government should exercise a dominant influence over IANA, this function instead being subject to progressive internationalisation leading to multilateral oversight;
- 56. Considers that the 2009 'affirmation of commitments' can constitute a positive basis for further development of ICANN, while emphasising that:
 - (i) the EU, primarily through the Commission, should play an active part in implementation, including through the review panels and by ensuring that the members of those panels are independent, have no conflicts of interest and represent different regions,
 - (ii) following public comment, recommendations by the review panels should be implemented by ICANN and reasons given in the event that it does not do so;
- 57. Requests the Commission to provide the European Parliament and Council with yearly reports on internet governance-related events during the preceding year, with the first such report to be provided by March 2011;
- 58. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.

4.2 Strengthening security and fundamental freedoms on the Internet

European Parliament recommendation of 26 March 2009 to the Council on strengthening security and fundamental freedoms on the Internet

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a recommendation to the Council by Stavros Lambrinidis on behalf of the PSE Group on strengthening security and fundamental freedoms on the Internet (B6-0302/2008),
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and in particular the provisions thereof relating to the protection of personal data, freedom of expression, respect for private and family life, as well as the right to liberty and security,
- having regard to Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data,¹² to Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the protection of personal data processed in the framework of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters,¹³ to Directive 2003/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the re-use of public sector information,¹⁴ to the Commission's proposal of 13 November 2007 for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2002/22/EC on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks, Directive 2002/58/EC concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 on consumer protection cooperation (COM(2007)0698), to Directive 2006/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the retention of data generated or processed in connection with the provision of publicly available electronic communications services or of public communications networks¹⁵ and to the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Communities of 10 February 2009 in Case C-301/06 *Ireland v Parliament and Council*,
- having regard to Council Framework Decision 2005/222/JHA of 24 February 2005 on attacks against information systems,¹⁶ to Council Framework Decision 2001/413/JHA of 28 May 2001 on combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment,¹⁷ to Council Framework Decision **2008/919/JHA of 28 November 2008** amending Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA on combating terrorism,¹⁸ to the Commission's Communication of 22 May 2007 entitled 'Towards a general policy and the fight against cyber crime' (COM(2007)0267), as well as to the recent initiatives for the detection of serious crime and terrorism (such as the 'Check the Web' project),
- having regard to the work undertaken within the framework of the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations (UN), both as concerns the combating of crime and cybercrime and as concerns the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, including on the Internet¹⁹,
- having regard to the most recent judgments of the European courts and national constitutional courts in this field, and in particular the Judgment of the German Federal Constitutional Court recognising a distinct right to the protection of confidentiality and the integrity of information technology systems,²⁰
- having regard to Rule 114(3) and Rule 94 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on Culture and Education (A6-0103/2009),

¹² OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31.

¹³ OJ L 350, 30.12.2008, p. 60.

¹⁴ OJ L 345, 31.12.2003, p. 90.

¹⁵ OJ L 105, 13.4.2006, p. 54.

¹⁶ OJ L 69, 16.3.2005, p. 67.

¹⁷ OJ L 149, 2.6.2001, p. 1.

¹⁸ OJ L 330, 9.12.2008, p. 21.

¹⁹ E.g. Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime of 23 November 2001; Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data of 28 January 1981.

²⁰ BVerfG, 1 BvR 370/07, 27.2.2008.

- A. whereas the evolution of the Internet proves that it is becoming an indispensable tool for promoting democratic initiatives, a new arena for political debate (for instance e-campaigning and e-voting), a key instrument at world level for exercising freedom of expression (for instance blogging) and for developing business activities, and a mechanism for promoting digital literacy and the dissemination of knowledge (e-learning); whereas the Internet has also brought with it an increasing number of opportunities for people of all ages to communicate with people from different parts of the world, for example, and has thereby expanded the scope for people to familiarise themselves with other cultures and thus enhance their understanding of other people and cultures; whereas the Internet has also extended the diversity of news sources for individuals as they are now able to tap into the flow of news from different parts of the world,
- B. whereas governments and public interest organisations and institutions should provide a suitable regulatory framework and appropriate technical means to allow citizens actively and efficiently to take part in administrative processes through e-government applications,
- C. whereas the Internet gives full meaning to the definition of freedom of expression enshrined in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, especially in terms of its 'regardless of frontiers' dimension,
- D. whereas transparency, respect for privacy and an environment of trust amongst I-stakeholders should be considered indispensable elements in order to build a sustainable security vision for the Internet,
- E. whereas on the Internet, freedom of expression and privacy can at the same time be both better enhanced and more exposed to intrusions and limitations by both private and public actors,
- F. whereas, through the freedom that it provides, the Internet has also been used as a platform for violent messages such as the ones intentionally inciting terrorist attacks, as well as for websites which can specifically incite hate-based criminal acts, and whereas cybercrime threats more broadly have increased worldwide and are endangering individuals (including children) and networks,
- G. whereas these crimes must be countered effectively and decisively, without altering the fundamental free and open nature of the Internet,
- H. whereas, in a democratic society, it is the citizens who are entitled to observe and to judge daily the actions and beliefs of their governments and of private companies that provide them with services; whereas technologically advanced surveillance techniques, sometimes coupled with the absence of adequate legal safeguards regarding the limits of their application, increasingly threaten this principle,
- I. whereas individuals have the right to express themselves freely on the Internet (for instance user-generated content, blogs and social networking) and whereas Internet search engines and service providers have made it considerably easier for people to obtain information about, for example, other individuals; whereas, however, there are situations in which individuals wish to delete information held in such databases; whereas, therefore, companies must be able to ensure that individuals can have person-related data deleted from databases;
- J. whereas technological leaps increasingly allow for the secret surveillance, virtually undetectable to the individual, of citizens' activities on the Internet; whereas the mere existence of surveillance technologies does not automatically justify their uses, but whereas the overriding interest of protecting citizens' fundamental rights should determine the limits and precise circumstances under which such technologies may be used by public authorities or companies; whereas combating Internet crime and the threats to an open democratic society which certain persons and organisations constitute when they use the Internet to damage citizens' rights must not mean that Member States assume the right to intercept and monitor all data traffic on the Internet which occurs on their territory, whether that applies to their own citizens or data traffic from abroad; whereas the combating of crime must be proportionate to the nature of the crime;
- K. whereas identity theft and fraud are an increasing problem that the authorities, individual citizens and companies are only beginning to recognise, leaving major security concerns in relation to the intensified use of the Internet for a wide range of purposes, including commerce and the exchange of confidential information,
- L. whereas it should be recalled that, when dealing with rights such as freedom of expression or respect for private life, limitations to the exercise of such rights may be imposed by public authorities if they are in accordance with the law, necessary, proportionate, and appropriate in a democratic society,
- M. whereas, on the Internet, there is a major power and knowledge divide between corporate and government entities on the one hand, and individual users on the other; whereas, therefore, a debate must be launched on necessary limitations to "consent,"

both in terms of what companies and governments may ask a user to disclose and to what extent individuals should be required to cede their privacy and other fundamental rights in order to receive certain Internet services or other privileges,

- N. whereas due to its global, open, and participatory nature, the Internet enjoys freedom as a rule, but this does not preclude the need to reflect (at national and international levels, as well as in public and in private settings) upon how the fundamental freedoms of Internet users as well as their security are respected and protected,
- O. whereas the host of fundamental rights that are affected in the Internet world include, but are not limited to, respect for private life (including the right to permanently delete a personal digital footprint), data protection, freedom of expression, speech and association, freedom of the press, political expression and participation, non-discrimination, and education; whereas the content of such rights, including their field of application and their scope, the level of protection provided by such rights and the prohibitions on abuse of such rights should be governed by the rules on the protection of human and fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitutions of the Member States, international human rights treaties, including the ECHR, general principles of Community law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and/or by other relevant rules of national, international and Community law, in their respective fields of application,
- P. whereas all the actors involved and active on the Internet should assume their respective responsibilities and engage in fora where pressing and important issues relating to Internet activity are discussed in order to seek and promote common solutions,
- Q. whereas e-illiteracy will be the new illiteracy of the 21st Century; whereas ensuring that all citizens have access to the Internet is therefore equivalent to ensuring that all citizens have access to schooling, and whereas such access should not be punitively denied by governments or private companies; whereas such access should not be abused in pursuit of illegal activities; whereas it is important to deal with emerging issues such as network neutrality, interoperability, global reachability of all Internet nodes, and the use of open formats and standards,
- R. whereas the international, multicultural and especially multi-lingual character of the Internet is not yet fully supported by the technical infrastructure and protocols of the World Wide Web,
- S. whereas in the on-going process of the “Internet Bill of Rights,” it is important to take into account all relevant research and undertakings in the field, including recent EU studies on the topic²¹,
- T. whereas economic activity is important for the further dynamic development of the Internet, while the safeguarding of its economic efficiency should be ensured through fair competition and the protection of intellectual property rights, as necessary, proportionate and appropriate,
- U. whereas the right balance should be maintained between the re-use of public sector information which opens unprecedented opportunities for creative and cultural experimentation and exchange, and the protection of intellectual property rights,
- V. whereas throughout the world, companies in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector face increasing government pressure to comply with domestic laws and policies in ways that may conflict with the internationally recognised human rights of freedom of expression and privacy; whereas positive steps have been taken, among which that taken by a multi-stakeholder group of companies, civil society organisations (including human rights and press freedom groups), investors and academics who have created a collaborative approach with the aim of protecting and advancing freedom of expression and privacy in the ICT sector, and have formed the Global Network Initiative (GNI)²²,
- W. whereas strong data protection rules are a major concern for the EU and its citizens, and Recital 2 of Directive 95/46/EC on data protection clearly states that technology (i.e. data-processing systems) is “designed to serve man” and must respect “fundamental rights and freedoms, notably the right to privacy, and contribute to economic and social progress, trade expansion and the well-being of individuals”,

1. Addresses the following recommendations to the Council:

²¹ A recent study on ‘Strengthening Security and Fundamental Freedoms on the Internet – an EU Policy on the Fight Against Cyber Crime’ puts forward among other ideas the adoption of a non-binding Internet Bill of Rights.

²² <http://www.globalnetworkinitiative.org/index.php>.

Full and safe access to the Internet for all

- (a) participate in efforts to make the Internet an important tool for the empowerment of users, an environment which allows the evolution of 'bottom up' approaches and of e-democracy, while at the same time ensuring that significant safeguards are established as new forms of control and censorship can develop in this sphere; the freedom and protection of private life that users enjoy on the Internet should be real and not illusory;
- (b) recognise that the Internet can be an extraordinary opportunity to enhance active citizenship and that, in this respect, access to networks and contents is one of the key elements; recommend that this issue be further developed on the basis of the assumption that everyone has a right to participate in the information society and that institutions and stakeholders at all levels have a general responsibility to assist in this development, thus attacking the twin new challenges of e-illiteracy and democratic exclusion in the electronic age²³;
- (c) urge Member States to respond to a growing information-aware society and to find ways of providing greater transparency in decision-making through increased access by their citizens to information stored by governments in order to allow citizens to take advantage of that information; apply the same principle to its own information;
- (d) ensure together with other relevant actors that security, freedom of expression and the protection of privacy, as well as openness on the Internet, are approached not as competing goals, but instead are delivered simultaneously within a comprehensive vision that responds adequately to all these imperatives;
- (e) ensure that the legal rights of minors to protection from harm, as prescribed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and as reflected in EU law, are fully reflected in and across all relevant actions, instruments or decisions relating to strengthening security and freedom on the Internet;

Strong commitment to combating cybercrime

- (f) invite the Presidency of the Council and the Commission to reflect on and develop a comprehensive strategy to combat cybercrime, pursuant, inter alia, to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, including ways in which to address the issue of "identity theft" and fraud at EU level in cooperation with both Internet providers and user organisations, as well as the police authorities dealing with IT-related crime and to put forward a proposal on how to create awareness campaigns and prevent such crime, while at the same time ensuring that the use of the Internet is safe and free for all; call for the creation of an EU desk for assistance to victims of identity theft and identity fraud;
- (g) encourage reflection on the necessary cooperation between private-public players in this field and on the enhancement of law enforcement cooperation, along with appropriate training for law enforcement and judicial authorities, including training on issues of fundamental rights protection; recognise the need for shared responsibility and the benefits of co-regulation and self-regulation as efficient alternatives or complementary instruments to traditional legislation;
- (h) ensure that the work undertaken in the framework of the "Check the Web" project and the recent initiatives aimed at improving the circulation of information on cybercrime, including by the setting-up of national alert platforms and a European alert platform for reporting offences committed on the Internet (creation of a European platform for cybercrime by Europol) are necessary, proportionate and appropriate and accompanied by all the necessary safeguards;
- (i) urge Member States to update legislation to protect children using the Internet, in particular in order to criminalise grooming (online solicitation of children for sexual purposes), as defined in the Council of Europe Convention of 25 October 2007 on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse;
- (j) encourage programmes to protect children and educate their parents as set out in EU law with respect to the new e-dangers and provide an impact assessment of the effectiveness of existing programmes to date; in doing so, take particular account of the online games which primarily target children and young people;
- (k) encourage all EU computer manufacturers to pre-install child protection software that can be easily activated;
- (l) proceed to the adoption of the directive on criminal measures aimed at the enforcement of intellectual property rights, following an assessment, in the light of contemporary innovation research, of the extent to which it is necessary and proportionate, and while simultaneously prohibiting, in pursuit of that purpose, the systematic monitoring and surveillance of all users' activities on the Internet, and ensuring that the penalties are proportionate to the infringements committed; within this context, also respect the freedom of expression and association of individual users and combat the incentives

²³ In the document entitled 'Internet – a critical resource for all' of the Council of Europe of 17 September 2008 it is also stressed that 'ensuring and promoting equity and participation with respect to Internet is an essential step for the progress of equity and participation in the society at large'.

for cyber-violations of intellectual property rights, including certain excessive access restrictions placed by intellectual property holders themselves;

- (m) ensure that the expression of controversial political beliefs through the Internet is not subject to criminal prosecution;
- (n) ensure that there are no laws or practices restricting or criminalising the right of journalists and the media to gather and distribute information for reporting purposes;

Constant attention to the absolute protection and enhanced promotion of fundamental freedoms on the Internet

- (o) consider that “digital identity” is increasingly becoming an integral part of our ‘self’ and in this respect deserves to be protected adequately and effectively from intrusions by both private and public actors – thus, the particular set of data that is organically linked to the “digital identity” of an individual should be defined and protected, and all its elements should be considered inalienable personal, non-economic and non-tradable rights; take due account of the importance of anonymity, pseudonymity and control of information flows for privacy and the fact that users should be provided with, and educated about, the means to protect it efficiently, for instance through various available Privacy-Enhancing Technologies (PETs);
- (p) ensure that Member States that intercept and monitor data traffic, regardless of whether that applies to their own citizens or to data traffic from abroad, do so under the strict conditions and safeguards provided for by law; call on Member States to ensure that remote searches, if provided for by national law, are conducted on the basis of a valid search warrant issued by the competent judicial authorities; note that simplified procedures for conducting remote searches in comparison with direct searches are unacceptable, as they infringe the rule of law and the right to privacy;
- (q) recognise the danger of certain forms of Internet surveillance and control aimed also at tracking every ‘digital’ step of an individual, with the aim of providing a profile of the user and of assigning ‘scores’; make clear the fact that such techniques should always be assessed in terms of their necessity and their proportionality in the light of the objectives they aim to achieve; emphasise also the need for an enhanced awareness and informed consent of users with respect to their e-activities involving the sharing of personal data (for instance in the case of social networks);
- (r) urge the Member States to identify all entities which use Net Surveillance and to draw up publicly accessible annual reports on Net Surveillance ensuring legality, proportionality and transparency;
- (s) examine and prescribe limits to the ‘consent’ that can be requested of and extracted from users, whether by governments or by private companies, to relinquish part of their privacy, as there is a clear imbalance of negotiating power and of knowledge between individual users and such institutions;
- (t) strictly limit, define and regulate the cases in which a private Internet company may be required to disclose data to government authorities, and further ensure that the use of that data by governments is subject to the strictest data protection standards; establish effective control and evaluation of that process;
- (u) stress the importance of Internet users being able to enhance their right to obtain the permanent deletion of their personal data located on Internet websites or on any third party data storage medium; ensure that such a decision by users is respected by Internet service providers, e-commerce providers and information society services; ensure that Member States provide for the effective enforcement of citizens’ right of access to their personal data, including, as appropriate, the erasure of such data or its removal from web sites;
- (v) condemn government-imposed censorship of the content that may be searched on Internet sites, especially when such restrictions can have a ‘chilling effect’ on political speech;
- (w) call on the Member States to ensure that freedom of expression is not subject to arbitrary restrictions from the public and/or private sphere and to avoid all legislative or administrative measures that could have a “chilling effect” on all aspects of freedom of speech;
- (x) recall that transfer of personal data to third countries must take place in accordance with the provisions laid down in, inter alia, Directive 95/46/EC and in Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA;
- (y) draw attention to the fact that the development of the ‘Internet of things’ and the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) systems should not sidestep the protection of data and of citizens’ rights;
- (z) call on the Member States to apply Directive 95/46/EC on personal data in relation to the Internet correctly; remind the Member States that this Directive, especially Article 8, applies regardless of the technology used for the processing of personal data and that its provisions call for Member States to provide the right to a judicial remedy and compensation for their infringement (Articles 22, 23, and 24);

- (aa) encourage the incorporation of fundamental principles of the “Internet Bill of Rights” into the research and development process of Internet-related instruments and applications and the promotion of the “privacy by design” principle according to which privacy and data protection requirements should be introduced as soon as possible in the life cycle of new technological developments, assuring citizens a user-friendly environment;
- (ab) support and request the active involvement of the European Data Protection Supervisor and of the Article 29 Working Party in the development of European legislation dealing with Internet activities with a potential impact on data protection;

International undertakings

- (ac) exhort all Internet players to engage in the on-going process of the “Internet Bill of Rights,” which builds on existing fundamental rights, promotes their enforcement, and fosters the recognition of emerging principles; in this respect the dynamic coalition on the Internet Bill of Rights has a leading role to play;
 - (ad) ensure that, in this context, a multi-stakeholder, multi-level, process-oriented initiative and a mix between global and local initiatives are considered in order to specify and protect the rights of Internet users and thereby ensure the legitimacy, accountability and acceptance of the process;
 - (ae) recognise that the global and open nature of the Internet requires global standards for data protection, security and freedom of speech; in this context call on Member States and the Commission to take the initiative for the drawing up of such standards; welcome the resolution on the urgent need for protecting privacy in a borderless world, and for reaching a Joint Proposal for setting International Standards on Privacy and Personal Data Protection of the 30th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners held in Strasbourg, on 15–17 October 2008; urge all EU stakeholders (public as well as private) to engage in this reflection;
 - (af) stress the importance of developing a real Web E-agora where Union citizens can have a more interactive discussion with policy makers and other institutional stakeholders;
 - (ag) encourage the active participation of the EU in different international fora dealing with global and localised aspects of the Internet, such as the Internet Governance Forum (IGF);
 - (ah) take part together with all the relevant EU actors in the establishment of a European IGF that would take stock of the experience gained by national IGFs, function as a regional pole, and relay more efficiently Europe-wide issues, positions and concerns in the upcoming international IGFs;
2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council and, for information, to the Commission.

4.3 Second Internet Governance Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro from 12 to 15 November 2007

European Parliament resolution of 17 January 2008 on the second Internet Governance Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro from 12 to 15 November 2007

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 23 June 2005 on the information society²⁴,
- having regard to its resolution of 14 March 2006 on a European information society for growth and employment²⁵,
- having regard to the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), adopted in Geneva on 12 December 2003,

²⁴ OJ C 133 E, 8.6.2006, p. 140.

²⁵ OJ C 291 E, 30.11.2006, p. 133.

- having regard to the Commission Communication entitled ‘Towards a Global Partnership in the Information Society: Translating the Geneva principles into actions’ (COM(2004)0480),
 - having regard to the WSIS Tunis Commitment and Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in Tunis on 18 November 2005,
 - having regard to the Commission Communication entitled ‘Towards a Global Partnership in the Information Society: Follow-up to the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)’ (COM(2006)0181),
 - having regard to the Council of Europe submission of 10 August 2007 to the second Internet Governance Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 12 to 15 November 2007,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the purpose of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is to carry out the mandate from the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) with regard to convening fora for democratic, transparent and multi-stakeholder policy dialogue,
 - B. whereas the main role and function of the IGF is to discuss a wide range of issues related to Internet governance and, where appropriate, to make recommendations to the international community,
 - C. whereas the first IGF was held in Athens from 30 October to 2 November 2006, identifying some of the issues and forms of debate, such as dynamic coalitions, which were looked at in greater depth in Rio and are to be pursued at future IGFs,
 - D. whereas the second IGF was held in Rio de Janeiro from 12 to 15 November 2007, attracting more than 2000 participants,
 - E. whereas the ad hoc delegations which it has sent have played a pivotal role in the promotion of European values and the interaction with civil society organisations and representatives of national parliaments present at these events, in cooperation with the Commission,
 - F. whereas information and communication technologies (ICTs) have a key role to play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,
 - G. whereas one of Europe’s main concerns regarding ICTs is the bridging of the digital divide both at regional and global levels,
 - H. whereas the top priorities for the European Union and the Council of Europe during the second IGF were the protection of children on the Web, the protection and promotion of freedom of expression, the need to guarantee openness and accessibility to make diversity possible, IP (Internet Protocol) addressing and numbering, and the Internet of Things linked to the broader issue of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification),
 - I. whereas these issues will be tackled again at the next IGF, to be convened in New Delhi from 8 to 11 December 2008,
1. Considers that, although the IGF is not to adopt formal conclusions, the European Union’s responsibility is to support this process, as it gives a positive and concrete context to the shaping of the Internet’s future on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach;
 2. Stresses that lessons can already be learnt from the fruitful exchanges held in the context of the IGF up to now, and put in motion, notably on electronic communications regulatory aspects and data security and privacy issues; underlines the need to secure an open and independent Internet in the future, based on the initiatives and needs of the stakeholders, as well as freedom of expression;
 3. Calls on the EU institutions concerned to take the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society into consideration in their legislative work, such as the revision of the electronic telecommunications framework, the revision of the i2010 initiative and any upcoming ICT legislative proposals; emphasises the means of making the Internet more accessible to more people, e.g. competition between operators and service providers, technology neutrality and development of ICT;
 4. Underlines the importance of raising the parliamentary profile of the IGF process and looks forward to cooperating with the Brazilian and Indian Parliaments and other interested assemblies in connection with the next IGF in New Delhi;
 5. Calls on the Council and the Commission to keep the IGF high on their agendas;
 6. Notes the offer made by Lithuania to organise the 2010 IGF;

7. Recognises the value of furthering its cooperation with the Commission, e.g. through regular meetings after meetings of the IGF Advisory Group;
8. Stresses the importance of engaging national and regional interests in the IGF process in order to form 'local' IGFs, as is already being proposed in the UK;
9. Encourages the organisation of a 'European IGF' before mid-2009 to reinforce the European dimension of the whole IGF/WSIS process; requests its President to offer facilities for a preparatory event involving members of the parliaments of the Member States before the New Delhi IGF.
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

4.4 Freedom of expression on the Internet

European Parliament resolution of 6 July 2006 on freedom of expression on the Internet

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous annual resolutions on the situation of human rights in the world,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on human rights and freedom of the press and on the evaluation of the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunisia in December 2005,
 - having regard to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights,
 - having regard to the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Dialogue (2001) and on Human Rights Defenders (2004) and their first evaluation under Austrian Presidency,
 - having regard to the Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society on 12 December 2003
 - having regard to the Joint Declaration of 21 December 2005 by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression,
 - having regards to the EU policy on human rights and democratisation in third countries adopted by the Council in December 2005,
 - having regard to the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR),
 - having regard to Rule 115 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers;
 - B. welcoming the statement of the World Summit in Tunis of 16-18 November 2005 on the primary importance of the information society for democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; in particular the freedom of expression and opinion, as well as the freedom to receive and access information;
 - C. whereas the fight for freedom of expression has today largely shifted on-line as the Internet has become a mean of expression of choice for political dissidents, democracy activists, human rights defenders and independent journalists worldwide;
 - D. whereas access to the Internet can strengthen democracy and contribute to a country's economic and social development and restricting such access is incompatible with the right to freedom of expression;

- E. whereas restrictions should only exist in cases of using the Internet for illegal activities, such as incitement to hatred, violence and racism, totalitarian propaganda and children's access to pornography or their sexual exploitation;
 - F. whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, authoritarian regimes and governments have been working on ever more far-reaching methods of controlling the Internet, chiefly using more and more sophisticated filtering technology and surveillance of electronic communications and setting-up cyber-police;
 - G. whereas, according to human rights organisations, a large number of cyber-dissidents are detained in prison - most of them in China - including Hao Wu, Chinese blogger and documentary filmmaker, Yang Zili, Chinese cyber-dissident, Shi Tao, Chinese journalist at the daily Dangdai Shangbao, Motjaba Saminejad, Iranian blogger, Mohammed Abbou, Tunisian lawyer, Pham Hong Son, Vietnamese doctor and Habib Saleh, Syrian online journalist; whereas the most recent cases concern the Egyptian bloggers Mohamed Sharkawy and Karim Lel-shaer;
 - H. whereas a number of countries can be seen as enemies of freedom of expression on-line as stated in the last Reporters Without Borders report, including China, Belarus, Burma, Cuba, Iran, Libya, Maldives, Nepal, North Korea, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkmenistan and Vietnam.
 - I. whereas companies based in democratic States partly provide these countries the means to censor the web and to monitor electronic communication;
 - J. whereas Chinese government has successfully persuaded companies such as Yahoo, Google and Microsoft to facilitate the censorship of their services in the Chinese internet market; also notes that other governments have required the means for censorship from other companies;
 - K. whereas equipment and technologies supplied by Western companies such as CISCO Systems, Telecom Italia, Wanadoo, a subsidiary of France Telecom have been used by governments for the purpose of censoring the Internet preventing freedom of expression;
 - L. whereas US legislators introduced a bill in February 2006, the Global On-line Freedom Act, aimed at regulating the activities of Internet businesses when they operate in repressive countries;
 - M. whereas the EU should demonstrate that the rights of Internet users are at the heart of its concerns and that it is ready to act to promote free speech on-line;
1. Reaffirms the fact that freedom of expression is a key value shared by all EU countries and that they have to take concrete steps to defend it;
 2. Calls, in this respect, on the Council and the EU Member States to agree on a joint statement confirming their commitment in favour of the protection of the rights of internet users and of the promotion of free expression on the internet world-wide;
 3. Reiterates its commitment to the principles which were confirmed at the Tunis Summit, viz.:
 - building the information society on the basis of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
 - combating the digital divide and seeking resources for action plans to foster development,
 - developing Internet governance arrangements which are more balanced, pluralist and representative of the States involved, to meet the new technological challenges (spamming, data protection, etc.);
 4. Strongly condemns restrictions on Internet content, whether they apply to the dissemination or to the receipt of information, that are imposed by Governments and are not in strict conformity with the guarantee of freedom of expression; strongly condemns the harassment and imprisonment of journalists and others who are expressing their opinions on the Internet; calls, in this respect, on the Council and the Commission to take all necessary measures vis-à-vis the authorities of the concerned countries for the immediate release of all detained Internet users;
 5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to draw up a voluntary code of conduct that would put limits on the activities of companies in repressive countries;
 6. Calls on the Commission and the Council to maintain the presence and active participation of the EU and the presentation of common positions especially with ECOSOC, ITU, UNESCO and UNDP;
 7. Calls on the Council and the Commission when considering its assistance programmes to third countries to take into account the need for unrestricted Internet access by their citizens;

8. Welcomes the Joint Investor Statement on Freedom of Expression and the Internet at the initiative of Reporters Without Borders; stresses that corporations which provide Internet searching, chat, publishing or other services should have a responsibility to ensure that the rights of users are respected;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

4.5 Human rights and press freedom in Tunisia

European Parliament resolution of 15 December 2005 on human rights and freedom of the press in Tunisia and evaluation of the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunisia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement between the European Union and Tunisia²⁶,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the human rights situation in Tunisia, and in particular its resolution of 29 September 2005²⁷,
 - having regard to the Commission Communication of 21 May 2003, entitled ‘Reinvigorating EU actions on human rights and democratisation with Mediterranean partners’ (COM(2003)0294),
 - having regard to the Commission Communication of 11 March 2003, entitled ‘Wider Europe - Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours’ (COM(2003)0104),
 - having regard to the Commission Communication of 12 April 2005, entitled the ‘Tenth Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: A work programme to meet the challenges of the next five years’ (COM(2005)0139),
 - having regard to the EU guidelines on human rights defenders, adopted by the Council in June 2004,
 - having regard to the resolutions of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly adopted in Cairo on 15 March 2005 and Rabat on 21 November 2005,
 - having regard to the Barcelona Summit of 27 and 28 November 2005, which brought together the Heads of State of the European Union and of the Mediterranean partner countries,
 - having regard to the statement of 13 September 2005 by the Presidency of the European Union on the obstacles placed in the path of the activities of the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH), and the steps taken following the prohibition of the Congress of the LTDH,
 - having regard to the statements made by the Council and the Commission at Parliament’s sitting on 13 December 2005,
 - having regard to its resolution of 23 June 2005 on the information society²⁸,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,
 - having regard to Rule 103(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Tunisia was the first Mediterranean country to sign an association agreement with the European Union, and whereas Article 2 of that agreement states that the domestic and international policies of the parties must be guided by respect for human rights and democratic principles,

²⁶ OJ L 97, 30.3.1998, p. 2.

²⁷ Texts Adopted of that date, P6_TA(2005)0368.

²⁸ Texts Adopted of that date, P6_TA(2005)0260.

- B. whereas the EU's neighbourhood policy is based on a mutually recognised commitment to what are regarded as shared values, such as democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights,
 - C. pointing out, in that connection, that Tunisia and the EU have jointly drawn up an action plan which sets priority actions, including the strengthening of reforms to safeguard democracy and the rule of law and, in particular, the promotion of freedom of expression, freedom of opinion, freedom of association and freedom of assembly,
 - D. whereas there is an inconsistency between the aim of the summit and certain incidents which took place at the summit, in particular the conduct of the Tunisian security services vis-à-vis a European Commissioner and Members of the European Parliament and the disruption of the 'human rights' workshop organised by the European Commission, in the presence of the European Parliament delegation; welcoming, in this connection, the steps taken by the Council to draw to Tunisia's attention its undertakings with regard to respect for human rights and democratic principles,
 - E. whereas there were many incidents during and in the weeks leading up to the WSIS, including cancellation of the citizens' summit, attacks on journalists and human rights activists, the failure by the Tunisian authorities to respond to representations made concerning hunger strikers and imprisonments linked to the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), the verbal attacks to which European parliamentarians were subject during the Summit and the deliberate sabotage of interventions by persons accredited by the United Nations - incidents which hampered freedom of expression and seriously damaged the country's image,
 - F. whereas the WSIS process is continuing after the Tunis Summit, which has produced positive results and opened a new stage, building on the conclusions of the second phase,
 - G. whereas the principles and main objectives of the WSIS remain the following:
 - building the information society on the basis of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - combating the digital divide and seeking resources for action plans to foster development;
 - developing Internet governance arrangements which are more balanced, pluralist and representative of the States involved, and meeting the new technological challenges (spamming, data protection, etc.),
 - H. noting the importance it attaches to the concrete implementation of the action plan, the allocation of the relevant funds and the participation of civil society, including local communities, business and non-governmental organisations, in the information society,
1. Notes that Tunisia and the EU have been linked since 1998 by an association agreement, Article 2 of which contains a human rights clause that constitutes an essential element of that agreement;
 2. Welcomes the significant economic and social progress made in Tunisia, not least in the areas of education and training, health and social security, and hopes that this progress will be accompanied by progress in the areas of the strengthening of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, and in particular freedom of expression and association and judicial independence, which form part of the Barcelona Process acquis;
 3. Calls on the Tunisian Government to abide by the undertakings on fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and association, guaranteed in the international instruments ratified by Tunisia;
 4. Points out the clear contradiction between the final Summit declaration, in which the States taking part recognise that full and absolute respect for human rights and democracy constitutes the cornerstone of the information society, and the disregard of this undertaking by the host country;
 5. Calls on the Tunisian authorities to allow the LTDH and the Union of Tunisian Journalists (SJT) to hold their congresses and to release the European funds allocated to the LTDH, the Association of Tunisian Women for Research and Development (AFTURD) and Santé Sud; also calls on the Tunisian authorities to cooperate fully with the Commission with a view to implementing promptly the 'Modernisation of justice' project financed under the MEDA programme 2004-2006 which, as a matter of priority, should strengthen safeguards concerning judicial independence;
 6. Calls, consequently, on the Council and the Commission to take, in cooperation with Parliament, the tangible initiatives and appropriate measures provided for in this respect, at the imminent meeting of the EU-Tunisia Association Council, in order to discuss the human rights situation; points, in this connection, to the initiative on the setting up of an EU-Tunisia Subcommittee on Human Rights within the framework of the Association Agreement;

7. Calls on the Council and the Commission to fully inform Parliament of the steps taken and the decisions adopted at the forthcoming EU-Tunisia Association Council meeting; urges, in this context, the Council and the Commission to inform the public of the steps taken, in particular as far as human rights defenders are concerned;
8. Welcomes the fact that the European Union, speaking with a single voice, was able to adopt a firm standpoint in the discussions in Tunis, at the same time acting as a driving force by means of its proposals, in particular as regards improved Internet governance and the implementation of the action plan; welcomes the fact that it has been involved throughout this process and hopes that this method will continue to be employed in the future;
9. Notes with satisfaction the decision to continue the process following the agreement reached on Internet governance and the confirmation of the independence of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers; welcomes the decision to opt for closer cooperation between governments with regard to the principle of equal treatment between States and the establishment of a Forum on Internet governance; emphasises that these advances reflect its call to develop balanced Internet governance arrangements;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the government of the Republic of Tunisia, the International Telecommunication Union, and the High-Level Summit Organizing Committee and Executive Secretariat of the WSIS.

5 BIOGRAPHIES OF MEMBERS OF EU DELEGATION IN VILNIUS



Neelie KROES

(Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for the Digital Agenda)

“The term ‘Internet Governance’ embraces a wide variety of topics, from security and stability of the Internet, freedom of expression, privacy and child protection to naming and addressing. All those subjects raise a number of diverse questions and challenges, but they have clearly one thing in common: they all have a public policy perspective.

All the resolutions of the European Parliament on Internet Governance highlight this. As the answers to those questions have an impact on the everyday lives of our citizens, it is particularly important to involve their elected representatives in exchanges that shape developments in all those areas. And I call all Members of Parliaments across the world, to take such a keen interest.

The IGF facilitates indeed an exchange in an unprecedented manner, as it allows gathering views of people with different backgrounds from all over the world. This global multi-stakeholder approach is in particular vital to the success of the Internet Governance Forum as the various topics should not be addressed in isolation. They are interrelated in various ways and can be approached not just from a technical angle but quite often raise issues of interest to the public sphere. Shaped as an informal space for dialogue, it has proved remarkable in providing for a unique worldwide possibility of a frank exchange. The numbers of participants in recent years give evidence of the success of this concept. Therefore it is my strong conviction that the IGF should continue and build on this asset continuing the spirit of the Tunis Agenda.

I welcome that the IGF comes back again to Europe and thank the government of Lithuania for hosting it this year. I am looking forward to experiencing the IGF this year myself.”

Curriculum Vitae

My current role is Vice President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda, Europe’s policy for Information and Communication Technologies.

I was Born 1941 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, where I also attended school and helped to build my family’s transport business.

I studied economics at Erasmus University, before working there for six years as an Assistant Professor.

My political career started on the Rotterdam Municipal Council, and in 1971 I was elected as a Member of the Dutch Parliament for the liberal VVD party. From 1982-1989 I served as Minister for Transport, Public Works and Telecommunication in the Netherlands.

After politics I was appointed President of Nyenrode University from 1991-2000, and served on various company boards, including Lucent Technologies, Volvo, P&O Nedlloyd.

Prior to serving as European Commissioner for Competition from 2004-2009, my charity work included advising the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund and World Cancer Research Fund, and I have an ongoing interest in mental health issues.



Maria BADIA i CUTCHET (S&D, Spain)

“There are two aspects that are especially appealing to me, year after year, in the Internet Governance Forum.

On the one side, there is the question of security and especially children safety. Internet opens a wide range of possibilities and we all welcome them, but freedom without control can be a risk, and this is why a proper Governance of the Internet is indispensable. We need to pay special attention to the more vulnerable elements of the

society, as for example children. The use of the internet by them, and the abuse that some adults can make of it, is a real danger and we should put all the necessary means to prevent it. This is why, it is crucial the promotion of media literacy among students and the education of the teachers and parents on how to teach the use of the new technologies and especially the Internet.

On the other side, I really believe that the use we can make of the Internet for the promotion and recognition of the cultural diversity in the world is an important issue. This is of vital importance to those minority cultures that due to their size and presence in the globalised world, risk of being left behind in the digital world. To prevent this, granting the use of the different linguistic typography in the Internet, but in a harmonized way is highly desirable.”

Curriculum Vitae

Born on 13 May 1947, St. Quirze del Vallès (Barcelona, Spain) and Member of Partit dels Socialistes de Catalunya :

- Graduate in English, Autonomous University of Barcelona.
- English teacher at primary schools in Sabadell.
- Coordinator, First Secretary's Office of the PSC. Coordinator, PSOE Secretariat for International Relations. PSC Secretary for European and International Policy (since 2000). Head of office for Deputy Secretary-General. Leading candidate on the PSC list for the EP elections in 2009.
- Member of PES Women.
- Head of the Secretariat of the President of the Parliament of Catalonia.
- Member of the European Parliament (since 2004). Vice-President of the S&D Group, responsible for Communications (since 2009).
- Member of Committee on Culture and Education and the Delegation for relations with the United States in the European Parliament. Also substitute member in the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and Delegation to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee.

Maria Badia has participated in the following IGF meetings: Athens, Greece (30 October - 2 November 2006), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (12-15 November 2007) and Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt (15-18 November 2009)



Pilar DEL CASTILLO (EPP, Spain)

“Information and communication technology (ICT) now permeates virtually all aspects of our lives. ICTs in general and the Internet in particular are inextricably linked with our desire for a prosperous and competitive economy, for the preservation of our environment, and for a more democratic, open, inclusive society. However this desire will only become a reality if all citizens are mobilised and empowered to drive and participate fully in the new digital society and we manage to preserve the open nature of the Internet worldwide.”

Curriculum Vitae

Pilar del Castillo is a Member of the European Parliament and Former Spanish Minister of Education, Culture and Sport from 2000 to 2004.

She is a member of the Partido Popular (People's Party), which in turn is a member of the European People's Party.

She is the Coordinator of the EPP group in the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), a substitute for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, a member of the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of India, and a substitute for the Delegation to the EU-Croatia Joint Parliamentary Committee.

From June 2009 she is the Chair of the European Internet Foundation.

Dr. del Castillo received a Law degree from Universidad de Complutense and later attended Ohio State University on a Fulbright scholarship, graduating with a Master's degree in Political Science. She then obtained a PhD in Law from Universidad de Complutense. Dr del Castillo held posts as Associate Professor of Constitutional Law and is currently Chair Professor of Political Science.



Teresa RIERA MADURELL (S&D, Spain)

“Internet means by definition freedom and creativity. Due to the rapid evolution of the net we are faced with the need to revise a whole set of issues and to take some decisions. But these decisions have to spring from an open debate, following a bottom-up approach and I do believe this is the best forum to come up with answers, particularly on the issue of governance.”

Curriculum Vitae

Teresa Riera Madurell is full Professor of Mathematics in the University of the Balearic Islands (UIB). She graduated in mathematics in the University of Barcelona (1974) and obtained her PhD degree (cum laude) in 1981 in the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. At the UIB she has been Director of the Business and Computer Sciences School (1986-1990) and Associate Vice-Chancellor (1991-1994). She was a research associate in the University of California (Berkeley) (1981 and 1982) and visiting researcher in the Carnegie Mellon University (1989).

Her fields of research include: multiple valued logics, approximate reasoning, possibility theory and its applications to artificial intelligence. She is author of books and articles on didactics and scientific outreach of mathematics.

She has been member of the Parliament of the Balearic Islands and Member of Mallorca Island Council (1989-1996). She was member of the Spanish Congress of Deputies (1996-2004) and since 2004 member of the European Parliament (MEP). From 2004 to 2009 she was member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and of the Committee of Women Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM).

Since 2009 Teresa is the speaker of the Socialist and Democrats group in the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), substitute member on the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (Committee on Foreign Affairs), member of Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and member of the Delegation for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. She is also substitute member of Delegation to the EU-Armenia, EU-Azerbaijan and EU-Georgia Parliamentary Cooperation Committees and member of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly.



Algirdas SAUDARGAS (EPP, Lithuania)

“The role of the Internet as a global mean of communication is continuously increasing in today’s society; therefore an increased attention of politicians is needed to ensure internet governance, to solve the problems linked to the Internet security, openness and privacy.

I expect that further development of the Internet will guarantee the same rights for everybody, despite their social, cultural or linguistic differences, and will aim at bridging the digital divide.”

Curriculum Vitae

Signatory of the Act of the Re-Establishment of the State of Lithuania, Member of the “Tėvynės sąjunga - Lietuvos krikščionys demokratai” party and Member of “Group of the European People’s Party (Christian Democrats)”

Born on 17 April 1948 in Kaunas, Lithuania

- Biophysics Diploma, Kaunas Medical Institute (1972).
- Researcher (1972-1990).
- Chair of Lietuvos krikščionių demokratų partija (Lithuanian Christian Democrat Party) (1995-1999).
- Member of the Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania (1990-2004).
- Foreign Minister (1990-1992, 1996-2000).
- Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the Holy See (2004-2008).
- Ambassador-at-Large of the Republic of Lithuania, Ministry of foreign affairs (2008 – 2009)
- Member of the European Parliament since 2009
- Member of Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly and Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee. Also substitute member of Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and Delegation for relations with Belarus.



Francisco SOSA WAGNER (NI, Spain)

“Internet is, above all, an essential instrument for the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms as well as an indispensable tool for promoting democratic values in the world. Internet is to be considered as an open global public good and its international governance should therefore guarantee free and open access worldwide. Internet is a place of transparency, multilateralism and democracy and the European Union commits to defend these universal values in both its internal policy and the international fora.”

Curriculum Vitae

Francisco Sosa Wagner (born on 10 June 1946 in Alhucemas, Spain) is a Spanish Member of the European Parliament since June 2009. He was elected for the “Unión Progreso y Democracia” party and he is a non-attached member at the European Parliament. He is a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and substitute of the Committee on Development. He is the rapporteur of the European Parliament Resolution of 15 June 2010 on internet governance: the next steps.

He graduated in law in 1967 and doctored in 1971. He was Professor at the University of Leon until 2009 and he was a Scholar at the Universities of Tübingen and Rome. He is a member of the International Academy of Comparative Law. He was member of the Commission of Experts chaired by Eduardo Garcia de Enterría that designed the Spanish state model (the autonomous communities). He worked as General Secretary for the Ministry of Public Administration from 1982 to 1987.

He is author of numerous books in his specialist field, as well as historical works, collections of essays, novels and literary articles. Awarded the “Miguel Delibes” “Café Breton” literary prizes, he is a regular columnist for “El Mundo” and “La Nueva España” newspapers.



Catherine TRAUTMANN (S&D, France)

“Five years of IGF: from Athens to Vilnius, and beyond...”

Having been through the 5-years span of the Internet Governance Forum, how not to be at the same time extremely proud of what was achieved –a lot of this praise goes to the IGF Secretariat-, and at least as extremely enthusiastic about what lies ahead?

First of all, as Parliamentarians we are not technicians by design, yet more and more we need to have a certain grasp of the topics we legislate on. While the Internet remains largely unregulated, its governance evolved. In the same way, as the digital sphere expands, it engulfs more traditional trades, which sometimes can create difficulties, in terms of rights, law, and business models. The IGF helped us not to be afraid of such challenges. This is largely due to its open, multistakeholder format: we much strive to keep those principles at heart for a new cycle. Even more so, we can notice that more and more, this kind of approach is being successfully tested in other fora and on other topics.

Last but not least, the IGF allowed us MEPs to make friends: not only fellow parliamentarians, with similar backgrounds and experiences, but also scholars, technicians, activists (sometimes all of these at once!), policy-makers of all sorts and origins. Such multipolar diversity defines the Internet; this has to be what identifies the IGF process.

I sincerely hope that a renewed cycle of IGFs will bear an increased impact on public policies around the world, and that our exchanges will create a way towards more common visions and values. In any case, national and regional initiatives already attest the success of the IGF method. Let’s hope that more and more citizen will get a chance to participate!”

Curriculum Vitae

Catherine Trautmann (*1951, France) has been a Member of the European Parliament for the Party of European Socialists (PES, now part of S&D group) since 2004, and had already seated from 1989 to 1994. She is a substitute member of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee as well as a full member of the Fisheries Committee. She is also Head of the French Socialist Delegation in the European Parliament.

She’s been rapporteur on the review of the “Telecom package”, specifically on the Framework, Access and Authorisation directives (so-called “Better Regulation”).

During her political career she has been a member of the French parliament (1986 to 1988), Secretary of State for the Elderly and Disabled (1988) as well as president of the Inter-Ministerial Working Party on (Drug) addiction (1988 to 1989).

From 1989 to 1997 as well as from 2000 to 2001 she was Mayoress of Strasbourg. She stepped down from office in 1997 when the Prime Minister Lionel Jospin appointed her as Minister of Culture and Communications (until 2000) as well as government spokeswoman (until 1998). Since 2000 she has been a member of the French party “Bureau National”.

She is currently a member of Strasbourg’s city council as well as 2nd Vice President of Strasbourg’s urban community, in charge of university and economic development. She studied theology in Strasbourg specialising in the history of religion as well as Coptic language and literature. She is also a Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur, Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres.



Lambert VAN NISTELROOIJ (EPP, The Netherlands)

“Strengthening privacy and freedom of expression on the internet, the broad availability of broadband connections and the fight against cybercrime are key to the further development of the internet as a platform to do business, to share knowledge, to foster innovation, and to stay in contact with friends. The European Union (EU) is doing its part: with the ‘Digital Agenda’, presented by Commissioner Kroes, Europe formulated ambitious goals in this field. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF), can use its unique multi stakeholder approach to complement and enhance this approach.”

Curriculum Vitae

Born in 1953, Nuland, The Netherlands.

Degrees in Geography and History (university of Tilburg), Social Geography (Catholic University of Nijmegen).

Since 2004: Member of the European Parliament (member of the Bureau of the Group of the European People’s Party)

In the European Parliament:

- Vice-president and treasurer of the Dutch EPP delegation;
- Member and EPP Coordinator in the Committee on Regional Development;
- Substitute member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy;
- Member of the Bureau of the EPP;
- Member of the Interparliamentary Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union;
- Member of the delegation for relations with South Asia;
- Substitute member of the Delegation in the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly;
- Co-president of the AGE and URBAN-intergroups.

Other experiences:

- President of the Governing Board of Knowledge4Innovation (K4I)
- Governor of the ‘European Internet Foundation’ (EIF);
- Director of the ‘European Energy Forum’ (EEF)
- Member of the Advisory Boards of ‘Netcarity’ (A NETworked multisensor system for elderly people: health CARE, safety and securITY in the home environment) and ‘Soprano’ (Service-Oriented Programmable Smart Environments for Older Europeans);
- President of the Supervisory Board ‘Smart Homes’ (Dutch Centre for Domotics and Innovation)



Sabine VERHEYEN (EPP, Germany)

“The Internet is a place which may not be seen isolated from the real world. It is a form of communication with countless incredible possibilities but also a lot of challenges. Because of this complexity it is very important to handle it responsible and accept that it is not a parallel universe. It is a part of our everyday life where every second billions of files are shared and we have to set up similar ground rules we have in reality so that everybody can handle the complex structure properly. In order to protect freedom of speech and to guarantee human rights we have to react on crime effectively. Therefore we have to work on the net from a global perspective to make sure that it doesn't become a legal vacuum.

The Internet becomes more and more a mirror image of the society and it is one of the most important issues in every society to protect the minors. This is why the amount of pictures of sexual abuse of children on the internet has to be reduced in a sustainable and efficient way.”

Curriculum Vitae

Date of birth	24 October 1964
Nationality	German
Family status	Married, 3 children

Education

1983 - 1988	University of Applied Sciences Aachen Architecture studies
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Political Career

Member of the European Parliament since 2009. Representative of the municipalities for the CDU/CSU-group in the European Parliament

She is full Member of the Committee on Culture and Education and substitute Member of the Committee on Regional Development. She is also Member of the Delegation for relations with South Africa and substitute of the Delegation for relations with Iran. Ms Verheyen was also member of the conciliation committee for the Telecom Package

1999 - 2009	Mayor of the city of Aachen
Since 2003	Member of the WDR Broadcasting Council
Since 2002	Member of the Regional Executive of the Municipal Policy Association (KPV)
Since 2001	Member of the CDU Regional Executive in North Rhine-Westphalia
Since 1999	Member of the Euregio Council
1994 - 2009	Municipal councillor in Aachen

6 BIOGRAPHIES OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ATTENDING THE FORUM



Zigmantas BALČYTIS (S&D, Lithuania)

“Information technologies have evolved rapidly and have become an inseparable part of our daily lives. Internet as a public good should be secure and accessible for all. It brings unquestionable advantages as well as unprecedented challenges. I very much welcome this IGF which is becoming a relevant forum for addressing, among others, such key issues, as Internet governance, digital gap, data protection and safety and security of the Internet.”

Curriculum Vitae

- Vilnius University, Finance and Accounting Faculty, specialising in economic cybernetics (1976).
- Engineer at the Planning and Design Bureau of the Ministry of the Food Industry (1976-1978).
- Deputy director of the Lithuanian National Philharmonic Society (1984-1989).
- Director of the Vilnius asphalt and concrete works (1992-1994).
- Deputy director of the company Lithun (1996-2000).
- Trade union administrator (1989-1991). Member of Lietuvos demokratinės darbo partija (Democratic Labour Party of Lithuania) (2000–2001).
- Member of Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija (Social Democratic Party of Lithuania) (since 2001). Vice-Chair of Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija (since 2004).
- Member of Vilnius City Council (1994).
- Deputy Governor of Vilnius District (1994-1996).
- Member of the Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania (2000-2009). Chair of the Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija group in the Seimas (2008-2009).
- Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania (2001-2005).
- Minister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania (2005-2007). Acting Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania (2006).
- Member of the Seimas delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2008-2009).
- Member of the European Parliament since 2009



Malcom HARBOUR (ECR, United Kingdom)

“My experience at IGF has shown the value of global exchanges on so many shared topics of concern. Information society issues are global issues. We need to increase our collaboration and work together to deal with the concerns that are holding back the enormous benefits that digital accessibility can deliver to economies and societies.”

Curriculum Vitae

Malcolm Harbour MEP is Chairman of the European Parliament’s Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee, and Vice President of the Science Policy unit STOA.

He has a long standing interest in all policy issues relating to the Digital Society and has been “Rapporteur” on many communications regulatory issues. He has participated in both WSIS Summits and 2 IGF meetings.

Malcolm Harbour was elected to the European Parliament in June 1999, and re-elected in June 2004 and 2009. He is one of 2 Conservative members representing the West Midlands Region of the UK. He has been elected as Chairman of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee, where he served as Co-ordinator for the European Centre Right Group (EPP-ED) from 2004 to 2009. He is now a Member of the newly formed European Conservatives and Reformists Group. He is Conservative spokesman on Internal Market issues, and specialist spokesman on IT issues. He is Vice-Chairman of the Parliament’s Science and Technology Options Assessment Panel (STOA) and a Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Delegation to Japan, a country he visits regularly.

Malcolm Harbour takes a special interest in the EU single market, industry, science and technology policy. He is Chairman of the Forum for the Automobile and Society, the Ceramics Industry Forum, the European Manufacturing Forum and the Conservative Technology Forum. He is a Governor of the European Internet Foundation, a member of the Conservative Policy Review on Science and Innovation. He has been the lead MEP (rapporteur) for major legislation on Telecoms, the Single Market and Motor Vehicle standards.

Since 2005, he has served on the CARS 21 High Level Group, a Europe-wide initiative to boost the automotive industry. He was named as a top 50 European of 2006 for his key role in broking agreement on the Services Directive. In May 2006, he was named the UK’s most Small Business Friendly UK Parliamentarian by members of the Forum of Private Business.

Before his election to the Parliament, Malcolm Harbour spent 32 years in the motor industry, as an engineer, a senior commercial executive, a consultant and a researcher. He began his motor industry career in the BMC Longbridge Plant as an Austin Engineering Apprentice in 1967.

Malcolm Harbour was born in February 1947. He was educated at Bedford School and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in Engineering, and at the University of Aston where he gained a Diploma in Management Studies. He received an Honorary DSc from Aston in 2008. He and Penny were married in 1969 and have lived in Solihull since 1972. They have 2 married daughters, Louise and Katy and 2 grandchildren.