

ISOC EUROPEAN REGIONAL BUREAU - EU issues overview 10 - 16 August 2013

Net neutrality

EU: Proposed telecom Regulation criticised within the EU Commission

- The proposed **EU single telecom market Regulation** is said to be facing **mounting opposition** within the European Commission services, especially with regards to its provisions on **consumer protection, powers of national regulators** and **net neutrality**, internal sources said.
- In a letter sent to the EU Digital Agenda **Commissioner Kroes**, Viviane Reding, the EU Justice Commissioner is said to have criticised a provision that would allow **content providers and ISPs to grant a preferential treatment** to their own content.
- The **provision on net neutrality** has reportedly been criticised for **lacking clear definitions** of several key concepts (e.g. Internet access service; degradation of service etc.).
- It is understood that the Commission wants to resolve any outstanding issues before 30 August, for the EU executive to **present the proposed Regulation on 10 September**, following internal sources.

Copyright infringement

UK: Wave of accidental blocking after copyright holder misinformation

- In its attempt to block access to a pirate sports website, the Premier League **mistakenly required UK's main ISPs to block an Internet address** that is used by hundreds of other companies, reported *Financial Times*.
- The incident has triggered numerous critiques underlining **the UK's court-enforced Internet blocking** could hamper the functioning of the online business, if, as it is the case now, the [copyright holder fails to check the correctness of an IP address](#) it requests to block.

Pirate's Bay proposes browser to circumvent censorship

- The Pirate Bay [has released a self-configured browser](#) that **allows users to circumvent the anti-piracy censorship**, granting access to file-sharing websites blocked by ISPs.
- Recently, **Irish ISPs were ordered to block access to The Pirate Bay**, following similar steps adopted in other EU Member States.

Data protection

Germany: Main ISPs launch a secure email service in response to Prism

- Two **main German ISPs**, Deutsche Telekom and United Internet have **set up a new secure email service** that is said to offset NSA's Prism programme by encrypting information. The messages sent between the ISPs will also be **processed and stored exclusively on servers in Germany**. The move aims to address German Internet users' concerns after the revelations on the US snooping on EU personal data.
- The **efficiency of the system is questioned**, as the encryption of emails sent to addresses on servers in other countries than Germany may not be automatic, at least until 2014, reported [ZDnet](#).

Internet governance

German Internet industry supports multistakeholder model of governance

- At a recent meeting between the German Federal Minister of Economics and Technology and representatives of the **German Internet industry**, Professor Michael Rotert, Chairman of the Board for (German Internet Association), underlined the **importance of a multistakeholder model of Internet governance** to develop generally applicable regulations.
- A large-scale **EU ICT strategy**, encompassing security issues, would enable a **better representation of interests of the European ICT sector** in the international fora, underlined eco.

General

EU: Use of Internet limited by cost concerns as shown by the latest EU-wide survey

- The **use of Internet in the EU is still** perceived as **too expensive**, revealed a [recently published survey](#) by the European Commission
- **Europeans seek ever more mobile bandwidth, but they worry about cost** : while Europeans are open to the opportunities offered by new tools & services, they still think twice before picking up the phone or going online because of the cost of these (mobile) services.