Final Report of the EU IOT Task Force on IOT Governance

Summary

Brussels, November 14, 2012

1. IOT Governance Definition:

In the absence of a clear definition of the Internet of Things the group was unable to agree on any definition what IOT Governance could and should be. For some members IOT is nothing else than a special application and/or service on top of the Internet's DNS which falls under the general Internet Governance rules and mechanisms, while other members see IOT in general as a more separated system which would need its own rules, regulations and mechanisms. Some members have argued that the ONS should be organized in a different way than the DNS (based on a federated root) while others do not see any need to use the ONS to "repair" some weaknesses of the DNS and proposed a bottom up, user driven and market oriented approach to an ONS management.

2. IOT Principles and Guidelines:

Based on the different approaches to the general understanding of IOT, there are different ideas whether there should be special IOT principles and guidelines or not. While there is a general agreement that IOT applications and services need further research and study, also with regard to possible principles and guidelines, there is a general feeling that it is still too premature to start a concrete policy development process (PDP) which could lead to an IOT framework of principles. The majority of the group agrees that for the time being the general Internet Governance principles, as laid down, inter alia, in WSIS Tunis Agenda (2005) and the ICANN Bylaws, give enough guidance for the further development and deployment of new IOT services and applications. Future policy initiatives should be user oriented, market driven and needed to enhance privacy of end users, security and fair competition. Nothing should be done which could prevent further innovations.

3. IOT Governance Mechanism:

There are two conflicting approaches with regard to an IOT Governance mechanism. The two positions are reflected in the outcome of two FP 7 research projects dealing with IOT Governance.

- i. Members of the CASAGRAS project propose to establish a special IOT Governance mechanism both on the global as well as on the regional and national level, including the option of an intergovernmental IOT treaty organization under/or in connection with the United Nations.
- ii. Members of the EURO-NG project do not see any need for a special IOT Governance mechanism. For them, the existing Internet Governance Eco-System (IETF, ICANN, RIRs, ISOC,

IEEE, IGF, W3C etc.) offers enough space to deal with special IOT related governance issues.

4. IOT Governance Issues:

Privacy, security and competition have been identified as the main issues related to IOT Governance, however those issues should not be discussed in a separate or isolated way but closely interlinked with general Internet related privacy, security and competition issues relevant for, inter alia, search engines, social networks, cloud computing and the role of intermediaries. There is an agreement within the group that further research, analysis and discussion is needed to identify problems.

5. IOT Governance Future

The group recommends to broaden the discussion around IOT governance beyond the EU and to have more consultations with non-European stakeholders, in particular in the US and Asia. The IOT-I Forum could be further enhanced and globalized. Complementary, the IGF Dynamic Coalition on the Internet of Things provides a good framework and offers a global space for future IOT discussions. During the recent IGF in Baku (November 2012) it was proposed to continue with the IGF IOT Dynamic Coalition, to organize a 3rd Leipzig workshop on IOT Governance (June 2013) and to prepare another workshop for the 8th IGF, scheduled for November 2013 in Bali. Some members of the IOT Governance Group have drafted an own document for an European Strategy for the Internet of Things, which goes beyond the limited issue of IOT Governance but includes also governance aspects discussed in this report. The document is attached.

Wolfgang Kleinwächter Chair of the Sub-Group on IOT Governance

Annex:

Recommendations on a European Strategy for the Internet of Things (IoT) endorsed by Center of European National Top Level Domain Registries (CENTR), European American Business Council (EABC), GS-1, TechAmerica Europe, and The European Telecommunications Operators' Association (ETNO), November 1, 2012