

30th september, 2010
Enschede, The Netherlands

To whom it may concern,

This is my letter and opinion on the matter of the so called Net Neutrality as it's status is being discussed in national and European politics.

It is my sincere opinion that true Net Neutrality is paramount in the context of civil liberties. I recognize the need for the authorities/governments to moderate unlawful content on the internet (e.g. Child pornography, death threats) but I recognize the Freedom of Information as being a cornerstone of modern liberal civil rights and it is with this assertion that I'd argue that Net Neutrality ought to be safeguarded.

Net Neutrality is also often implicated in discussions on matters of downloading media (music, movies etc.) in European politics (most reported recently is the ACTA agreement). Though this discussion is worth having had in a sincere, honest and independent manner, I strongly believe that Net Neutrality should not be compromised for whatever the result is of this discussion.

The Internet has become one of the more important development in modern human history and culture. Through it's technology it has become possible for science and communication to speed up and accelerate a person's education and enlightenment. The Internet has a great part to play in economical issues also, from being used to transfer money to sending documents from one business to another. It has also become a great forum for human discussion, discourse and entertainment. The Internet is riddled with real life information about people and thus has become a major factor in privacy matters. This makes the Internet a serious and great part of modern human life and it is for that reason that Net Neutrality should not be taken lightly.

Net Neutrality is a fundamental aspect of the Internet in the same way freedom of speech is one in the 'real world'. This is why fundamental and unfaltering legislation must be passed on a European level to safeguard Net Neutrality for this and future generations.

I cannot press the importance of this discussion enough, and it is with a sorrow heart that I see a disproportionate amount of my fellow citizens not recognizing it's importance and influence on our lives. This is why I'd also like to take the opportunity to advocate a bigger part for the internet in the education and discussions on civil rights, privacy and similar topics.

This letter may NOT be published without my further consent.

With Regards,

Jakob Hummelen