

Question 1: I don't believe there is a problem at the moment in Europe.

Question 2: Weak regulation providing loop holes that allow it to gradually creep in and gain acceptance through familiarity which may or may not occur within Europe, but more likely in other parts of the world and spread as the Internet is global in nature.

Question 3: Possibly within Europe - but what about rest of the world? Shouldn't there be a global agreement and enforcement otherwise EU may be free and neutral but if the services that are critical are located outside Europe, the effect is the same.

Question 4: There should be no need nor justification for traffic management. Currently operators offer Internet connectivity via packages that restrict the bandwidth consumption (at least in the UK anyway) and this should be enough for traffic management. Providing they ensure that demand based on packages they sell does not out strip the available bandwidth (averaged) then there should be no issue. It has been a long accepted situation where at peak times response times and available bandwidth reduces and the answer is to purchase a faster (i.e. higher bandwidth) connection - however other than having a faster connection at the end user's point of access, there is no active management of traffic based on how much that user is paying or what services they are accessing.

I liken it to the road network, providing you pay the taxes to the government (in this case ISP), and obey the rules of use (legal and contractual - acceptable use policy) then we can travel wherever we want to. If we hit congestion, then we could go via a private toll road and pay for the privilege which in the Internet case is faster bandwidth connection, less contention on the broadband - but essential you end up back on the public network.

Question 6 - YES - there is no difference.

Question 8 - There shouldn't be exclusive agreements available - this just reduces competition as the big companies can outprice smaller competitors and kill new products and services before they have a chance to gain market penetration.

Question 9 - Should be regulatory as voluntary codes can be ignored.

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