

## Hearing on Internet Governance arrangements

6 May 2009, 10:00 – 17:15

Brussels – Charlemagne Building<sup>1</sup>, Room DUR1

09:30 Registration & coffee

10:00 Introduction by the Commission

10.30 WSIS

11.15 Security & stability

12.00 The role of governments

12.45 Round up morning discussion

13.00 Lunch

14.15 Accountability and legitimacy

15.00 Internationalisation of Internet Governance

15:45 Coffee break

16:00 Digital divide

16.45 Round up afternoon discussion

17:00 Concluding remarks

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### Theme description

1. **WSIS:** Progress since WSIS- how far are we with the implementation of WSIS principles? What are the new challenges, if any, since WSIS that should be addressed?
2. **Security & stability** of the Internet remains a key EU priority. What are the main threats/challenges? What should the EU be doing about them in particular with a view to their international dimension?
3. **The role of public authorities:** How should public authorities, in particular governments, respond to their responsibilities in view of the importance of the Internet to our economies and societies? What lessons, if any, should be learnt from the "financial crisis" (e.g. should self-regulation for critical infrastructures and services be more closely monitored by governments and relevant public authorities)? To what extent are private sector leadership and stronger governmental and public policy making complementary and necessary components for the effective management of the Internet?
4. **Accountability and legitimacy:** To what extent are self-regulatory governance bodies accountable to Internet users world-wide? What problems, if any, are posed by the fact that many Internet users do not participate, even indirectly, in the governance processes? Is it necessary to make governance fora more accountable to the wider international community and, if so, how?
5. **Internationalisation of Internet Governance:** Is it desirable or necessary to ensure fair participation of actors in their respective roles from all geographic regions in the future shaping of the Internet and if so, how? How can situations be avoided where the imposition of a particular legal system or jurisdiction might disadvantage players from outside the jurisdiction concerned?
6. **Digital divide:** The future billions of users will come largely from developing countries. Should the existing Internet governance mechanisms be adapted to reflect this evolution and, if so, how? Should the interests of those who don't yet have Internet access be represented in the policy making processes and, if so, how?

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<sup>1</sup> Rue de la Loi, 170