



REPORT¹

MEETING WITH EUROPEAN BUSINESS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Preparing for IGF 2015

09/10/2015 BRUSSELS

The meeting was chaired by Megan Richards, Head of the Internet Governance Taskforce at DG CONNECT and Head of the European Commission's Delegation to the 10th IGF. The other COM participants were: Cristina Monti, Silvia Viceconte, Daniel Spoiala and Elena Plexida.

Approximately 20 physical participants and 10 remote participants joined the meeting. (Lists attached at the end of this document).

1. Internet Governance - taking stock of latest developments and looking ahead to upcoming global discussions

The Chair welcomed participants and explained that the objective of the meeting was to exchange views and information on on-going global discussions on internet governance (and specifically on the implications for European stakeholders) ahead of the 10th IGF to be held in Joao Pessoa from 10-13 November 2015.

The Commission provided a debrief on the most prominent issues, focussing in particular on the IANA transition and ICANN accountability, the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS+10 review) and the future of the IGF and highlighting the interdependencies of these different processes.

On **IANA transition**, the Commission recalled that the current IANA contract between NTIA and ICANN expired on 30 September and has been extended by one year to allow the multistakeholder community to finalise their proposal and the USA government to complete its internal processes.

Both proposals, on IANA transition and on **ICANN accountability**, were recently subject to public consultations. While there is a rather positive support for the current proposal on IANA transition, ICANN accountability track requires further work in particular in view of the ICANN board reactions.

¹ These minutes have been drafted by the European Commission. Please send any request for corrections to Ms Cristina Monti (Cristina.Monti@ec.europa.eu), DG CONNECT, Internet Governance Taskforce.

The next ICANN meeting in Dublin will therefore be very important in terms of understanding the next steps. In view of the upcoming WSIS+10 review, the outcome of this meeting may have important political significance.

The European Commission then recalled that the **WSIS +10** High Level Event in New York is foreseen as one of the important global ICT events in 2015. It will decide on the IGF mandate renewal, shape economic and social development by and through ICT for the future and touch on Internet Governance issues. Negotiations have kicked off and the co-facilitators, Latvia and the United Arab Emirates, have drafted a first non-paper following several inputs from stakeholders, including a joint EU paper, during the summer. Russia has issued a strong position paper advocating the allocation of the core Internet functions to the UN and a much increased governmental control. Other positions including China, Saudi Arabia and the G77 advocate a more enhanced role for governments.

An exchange of views followed, where participants mainly enquired about the potential frictions in the ongoing IANA transition / ICANN accountability process and what the real implications might be, as well as on the role of the US government. Some participants called for European stakeholders to be more aware and involved in these discussions, as they feared that a radical change in the current balance of power in the Domain Name System might occur.

The European Commission expressed confidence that the intense work done so far by the global community has not been in vain and that an agreement could still be found. Reference was made to the recent [joint statement](#) of the European Domain Name System stakeholders on these issues.

2. Preparations for the Internet Governance Forum in João Pessoa

The European Commission reported on the preparatory work which is under way in order to ensure a strong European voice at the IGF and show the EU's commitment towards the multistakeholder model of internet governance.

Composition of the EU delegation: VP Ansip will be in João Pessoa on 9 and 10 November. He will have a busy agenda of meetings, including with ICT industry and civil society. When he will not be present, the delegation will be headed by Megan Richards, who will be accompanied by Cristina Monti. A representative of EEAS (Frida Orring) will also participate.

The European Parliament will send an official delegation² of 9 MEPs, headed by MEP Zorrihno. The majority of these MEPs are new to the IGF. Therefore a preparatory meeting with them has taken place on 30.09.

Coordination with EU Member States will be facilitated on the spot. A significant level of representation from European entities would be very welcome to back up the political position of the EU and the Member States present.

² Current composition of EP Delegation to the IGF: Mr Carlos Zorrinho MEP (S&D) – ITRE - Head of EP Delegation; Mr David Borrelli MEP (EFDD) – ITRE; Ms Sabine Verheyen MEP (EPP) – CULT; Ms Julie Ward MEP (S&D) – CULT; Ms Therese Comodini-Cachia MEP (EPP) – JURI; Mr Michal Boni MEP (EPP) – LIBE; Mr Josef Weidenholzer (S&D) – LIBE; Ms Eva Kaili MEP (S&D) – STOA; Additional: Ms Marietje Schaake MEP (ALDE); Ms Julia Reda MEP (Pirate Party).

The Commission is also closely working with **EuroDIG** (The European Dialogue on Internet Governance) in order to ensure a common presence at the IGF. The IGF will serve as a resounding chamber for the "messages from Sofia"³ capturing discussions held at the EuroDIG meeting last June. The next EuroDIG meeting in 2016 will be hosted in Brussels and will provide a unique opportunity to raise awareness on Internet Governance issues within and beyond the Brussels policy arena and at the highest political levels, as well as to involve additional and new stakeholders in the debate. The importance of further strengthening EuroDIG and to reinforce its links with the various national fora and the global IGF was stressed.

In terms of **topics and subjects** to be covered by the IGF, the strong developmental dimension of this year was highlighted, given the United Nations discussions on the "post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals" and the WSIS+10 review. As usual the programme of workshops, main sessions and side events will be very comprehensive and covering a very broad array of interesting topics.

Building-up on efforts already initiated last year in Istanbul with a view to provide more **tangible and portable outcomes**, a lot of work has been carried out over the last months, in order to prove that the IGF is capable to respond effectively to increased expectations by the global community. These efforts include 6 best practice forums (BPFs), 13 dynamic coalitions (DCs) and a new activity related to enabling Internet access, namely "Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion". (detailed info can be found here: <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>). A wealth of outcome documents is therefore expected to be produced by this year's IGF.

Participants exchanged information on the different workshops and other activities they are involved concerning the IGF. The Commission invited them to also provide this info in writing at the following link: <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/content/preparing-10th-internet-governance-forum-exchange-views-european-business-and-civil-society>

3. How can European business and civil society play a bigger role in Internet governance discussions, and in particular in the IGF?

Participants were encouraged to exchange views on how to ensure a stronger European impact and their expectations on the ongoing Internet Governance processes, considering the intensification of the global discussions in various organisations and fora. The Commission stressed the importance of a stronger and more incisive presence of European stakeholders in the IGF context, including by actively engaging in the preparatory process (providing input to the several outcome documents currently being drafted by the IGF community, or even by attending and contributing to the sessions via remote participation).

Adequate funding of the IGF is equally important. The IGF relies on voluntary funding, including host-country and other in-kind contributions. The European Commission has been one of the main funders of the IGF Secretariat. In addition to donating to the IGF Trust Fund (managed by UNDESA), companies, organisations and individuals now have the possibility to give funds (even as small as 25 EUR) to the "IGF Support Association"

³ This document will be available soon on EuroDIG website: <http://www.eurodig.org/>

promoted by ISOC and launched last year. As confirmed by the ISOC representative, the Association is already funding several national and regional IGF initiatives worldwide.

4. The Global Internet Policy Observatory (GIPO)

The European Commission provide an update on the ongoing work to build GIPO. During the IGF, a special GIPO Open Forum will promote the initiative and contribute to the further development of the tool.

GIPO is intended to make the multistakeholder process more accessible and transparent to all stakeholders (particularly the more disadvantaged stakeholders). GIPO will be a tool to monitor and analyse Internet policy, as well as technological and regulatory developments across the world.


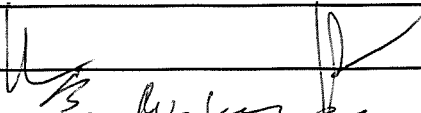


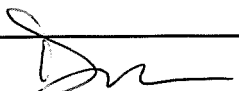
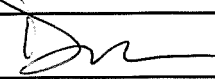
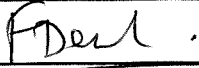


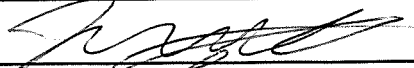

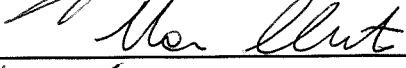







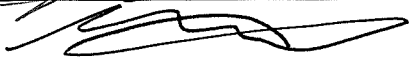
The application of innovative analytical and visualisation tools to data and information on Internet policy and governance, could help overcoming the problems of information overlap, overload, fragmentation and complexity.

GIPO is currently being developed by subcontractors as a European Commission project. Participants were invited to visit the www.giponet.org website and to subscribe to GIPO social media channels to stay abreast of developments and to actively contribute to the project.

**Preparing for the 10th Internet Governance Forum: exchange of views with
European business and civil society**

9 October 2015, 09:30 – 12:00

Attendance list

Name	Signature
Alain Godfurnon	
Ana Perdigao	
Andrea Parola	
Barbara Montereale	
Christian Wulff Søndergaard	
Claudia Selli	
David Frautschy Heredia	
Frederic Donck	
Frida Orring	
Inka Kotilainen	
Jaymeen Patel	
Kasia Jakimowicz	
Marco Clemente	
Maria Rosa Gibellini	
Marie Pattullo	
Maryant Fernández	
Mattias Bjarnemalm	
Maurits Bruggink	
Nina Elzer	
Pauline Gounaud	
Philip Sheppard	
Sandro Bazzanella	
Tilman Kupfer	
Wim Degezelle	
Xander Bouwman	

Fernando Sanchez
(EP, EFDD Group)



List of Remote Participants

Chris Buckridge

Marco H. (RIPE)

Christopher Wilkinson

Jean Louis Burillon

Kevin Anthony Risser

Kristof Claesen

Laura Hutchison

María Gatón Fraile

Matteo Lucchetti

Anelia Dimova