



Recent achievements of the Media and Information Society Division (Sept. 2011)

Recent on-line publications

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/media/Doc/Publications_en.asp

Human Rights in the Information Society

- **NEW : Media matters in the cultural contradictions of the « information society » - Towards a human rights-based governance** By Divina Frau-Meiggs. ISBN 978-92-871-6834-4

- Copyright and human rights
- Protecting children from harmful content



Living Together

Now available in 7 languages

A reference tool on Council of Europe standards on the contribution of the media to harmonious living among different communities and groups in a democratic society.

English, French, Albanian, Bulgarian (Compliment of the Bulgarian Ministry of Transports, Information Technologies and Communications), Russian, Turkish and Ukrainian. Available in pdf version at <http://www.coe.int/media>



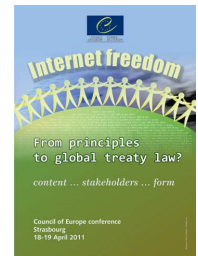
Events

Conference Internet Freedom - from principles to global treaty law? 18 and 19 April 2011

The Council of Europe organised a conference on Internet freedom on 18 and 19 April 2011.

Over 150 representatives of Council of Europe member and non-member states, members of the business and technical communities, as well as civil society activists from both Europe and beyond discussed Internet freedom and the normative frameworks that are needed to support it internationally. The Internet's sustainability was considered a sine-qua-non condition for its freedom and participants considered principles for the governance of Internet. A deeper reflection on the global nature of the Internet and the legal constructs that could support it internationally, as well as on roles of stakeholders, should continue.

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/media-dataprotection/conf-internet-freedom/default_EN.asp?



EuroDIG 2011 – 30-31 May, Belgrade

multistakeholder dialogue on Internet governance must be further strengthened

The fourth "European Dialogue on Internet Governance" conference, EuroDIG 2011, finished with a broad support of participants to further strengthening the multistakeholder dialogue model for Internet governance, based on the understanding that it is the only way to effectively address the challenges the Internet brings to public policy.

Over the years, EuroDIG has been recognised as the European Forum on Internet governance.

<http://www.eurodig.org>



The Council of Europe and IGF

Internet Governance - Maximising rights, minimising restrictions in cyberspace

Rights should be maximised and restrictions minimised while protecting the Internet from disruptions, protecting human rights online and fighting cybercrime. This will be the key message of the Council of Europe at the 6th Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which the UN is organising in Nairobi from 27 to 30 September.

Access to the Internet has become a pre-condition for people's freedom of expression and ability to assemble and participate in public life.

<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>



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**Steering Committee on Media and New Communication Services latest texts
adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (September 2011)**

International cooperation to face disruptions to the Internet

The Council of Europe the Committee laid out a framework of co-operation for member states with a view to preserve a global, stable and open Internet as a means of safeguarding freedom of expression and access to information.
(Recommendation CM Rec(2011)8 – 23 September 2011)

10 Principles for Internet governance

that should be upheld by Council of Europe member states when developing national and international policies related to the Internet: protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law; multistakeholder governance; responsibility of states; empowerment of Internet users; universality; integrity; decentralised management; open standards; interoperability and end-to-end nature; open network; and cultural and linguistic diversity. (CM Declaration adopted on 23 September 2011)

The principle of network neutrality

The Council of Europe is committed to the principle of network neutrality and should explore the matter further with a view to providing guidance to member states and/or to facilitating the elaboration of guidelines with and for private sector actors in order to define more precisely acceptable management measures and minimum quality-of-service requirements.
(CM Declaration adopted on 29 September 2010)

Measures to promote respect of article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights

Genuine democracy and democratic processes require freedom of expression and information, including freedom of the media. When those freedoms are not upheld, accountability is likely to be undermined and the rule of law can also be compromised. Council of Europe member states have undertaken to secure to everyone within their jurisdiction the fundamental right to freedom of expression and information, in accordance with Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.
(CM Declaration adopted on 13 January 2010)

Children on Internet – protection and participation

Public-private partnerships are encouraged to

- create and facilitate confidence building environments for children on the internet;
- create a HR based pan-European trust mark for new and existing online content labelling systems,
- improve children's Internet literacy through those actors which play a key role in children's lives

(CM/Rec(2009)5 - 8 July 2009)

Internet filters - freedom of expression and information

The use of Internet filters has to strike a balance between freedom of expression and information and the protection of children against harmful content on the Internet.
(CM/Rec(2008)6 – 26 March 2008)

A new notion of medias

States should adopt a new broad notion of media and acknowledge that social networks, online games or online whistleblower sites are entitled to media freedom rights and responsibilities.
(Recommendation CM Rec(2011)7– 23 September 2011)

Freedom of expression fully applies to domain names

The Council of Europe states that the right to freedom of expression is fully applicable to domain names and strings. This is particularly important in view of the extension of the domain name space to include generic names in 2012.
(CM Declaration adopted on 23 September 2011)

Digital Agenda for Europe

The Council of Europe welcomes the Granada Ministerial Declaration and the Digital Agenda for Europe and invites the European Union to co-operate with the Council of Europe in this field, emphasising that the Council of Europe values are essential in the building of an inclusive and open pan-European digital society.
(CM Declaration adopted on 29 September 2010)

The Internet protocol address resources: shared public resources

The Council of Europe considers that the Internet protocol address resources should be regarded as shared public resources and allocated and managed in the public interest by the entities entrusted with these tasks taking into account the present and future needs of Internet users.
(CM Declaration adopted on 29 September 2010)

Council of Europe to be an observer at ICANN's governmental advisory body

Internet and other information and communication technologies serve to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms and therefore have high public service value. Enabling access to and use of the Internet, as well as ensuring their protection, should be high priorities for member states' policies with regard to Internet governance. All Council of Europe member states are encouraged to actively participate in GAC or other forms of involvement in ICANN's work in order to promote the Council of Europe's values and standards in the multi-stakeholder governance of the Internet. Arrangements could be made for the Council of Europe to participate as an observer in GAC's activities and its secretariat.

(CM Declaration adopted on 26 May 2010)

Community media – their role in social cohesion and inter-cultural dialogue

Community media are an important actor of social cohesion and inter-cultural dialogue and they should be guaranteed the necessary means and resources to fulfil that role.
(CM Declaration adopted on 11 February 2009)