

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE**

**INTERNET FREEDOM – FROM PRINCIPLES TO GLOBAL TREATY LAW?**

**CONTENT, STAKEHOLDERS, FORM**

**18 – 19 (morning) April 2011**  
Strasbourg

**Tentative programme**

**18 April**

- 9:00 – 9:30**      **Registration of participants**
- 9:30 – 9:45**      **Opening by Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe**
- 9:45 – 10:15**    **Keynote speech: Senior United Kingdom (e.g. Foreign Office) representative, TBC**
- 10:15 – 11:15**   **Internet freedom and universality – is the global free flow of information sustainable?**

**Moderator: TBC**

**Description:** There is general acceptance of the importance of the free flow of information on the Internet for protecting fundamental rights and freedoms, preserving democracy and promoting growth and development. Interference with the free flow of Internet traffic in the form of filtering, surveillance or other practices is a reality. Cyber attacks are highly damaging and may be capable of breaking down the Internet. Companies that manage or service the Internet are not free from pressure or interference and their actions may have an impact on the public interest. Is the global free flow of information over the Internet sustainable?

**Panellists:**      Committee of Ministers' chairmanship, Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, U.S.A. State Department and Department of Commerce, EU, IGOs, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, other private sector and civil society actors.

**11:15 – 11:45**    **Break**

**11:45 – 13:00**   **Panel 1: Multi-stakeholderism, a norm in search of policy**

**Moderator:**

**Description:** The significance and implications of multi-stakeholderism continue to be the subject of debate. There are multiple interpretations of this concept in the context of international public policy for the Internet. For some, it means consultation, involvement and participation; for others, participation and deliberation in collaborative standard-setting. The multi-stakeholder model is built into the governance processes of many Internet entities and is the accepted method for international dialogue. Are there going to be new forms of international agreements or law that will evolve out of these arrangements?

**Panellists:** Governments, private sector, civil society, technical community.

**13:00 – 15: 00 Lunch Break**

**15:00 – 15:20** Summary of morning discussions and introduction of topics for afternoon discussions: Wolfgang Kleinwächter, Chairperson of the Council of Europe Ad hoc Advisory Group on Cross-Border Internet.

**15:20 -16:30 Panel 2: Internet governance principles**

**Moderator:**

**Description:** Different proposals have been made for Internet governance principles which have some normative significance. They emphasise mostly the protection of rights and freedoms, Internet-engineering principles, multi-stakeholder participation and innovation. What do they imply for the future of international public policymaking for the Internet? This session will also discuss a draft declaration which is being prepared for possible adoption by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on Internet governance principles.

**Panellists:** Governments, private sector, civil society, technical community.

**16:30 – 17:30 Panel 3: International and multi-stakeholder cooperation on Internet resilience and stability**

**Moderator:**

**Description:** Risks of disruption to the stable and continuous functioning of the network, technical failures and interference with Internet infrastructure may challenge the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms across borders. The private sector takes systematic action to address vulnerabilities and risks. Computer emergency response teams engage in cross-border cooperation. Can we call this mission accomplished? Is there a need to bring such cooperation under international law? This session will discuss how Internet resilience and stability are approached in different countries, what the best practices are and how to fill in the gaps. A draft recommendation which is being prepared for possible adoption by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on issues of international cooperation in respect of resources that are critical for the functioning of the Internet will also be discussed.

**Panellists:** Governments, private sector, civil society, technical community.

**17:30 - 18:00** Summary of discussions and closing of the first day: Rolf H. Weber, member of the Council of Europe ad hoc Advisory Group on Cross-Border Internet.

**19 April**

**9:00-10:30 Panel 4: International lawmaking in their respective roles and responsibilities**

**Moderator:**

**Description:** It is generally accepted that a decentralised Internet infrastructure which is free from political or other undue interference contributes to achieving Internet freedom and universality. What are the most viable options for international action to ensure Internet freedom, universality, integrity and openness? Common principles and standards emerging from processes which involve corporations, civil society, lobbies and government officials? International law agreements? What are the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders?

**Panellists:** Governments, private sector, civil society, technical community.

**10:30- 11:00 Break**

**11:00- 12:00 Panel 5: What architecture for multi-stakeholder participation and policy-making?**

**Moderator:**

**Description:** Multi-stakeholder participation and policy-making best represent the interests of all concerned. They permit effective knowledge-sharing and consensus-building. Multi-stakeholder standards have been applied with a certain degree of success in the context of global rule-setting for corporate social responsibility. This session will discuss the specificities of multi-stakeholder policies with particular reference to participation, governance and implementation.

**Panellists:** Governments, private sector, civil society, technical community.

**12:00-12:30 Closing of the conference**

**Conclusions** by the Rapporteur, Mr Andris Mellakauls, Chairperson of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services

**Closing remarks** by Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe or Mr Philippe Boillat, Director General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe