



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Culture and Education

2009/2229(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on Internet governance: the next steps
(2009/2229(INI))

Rapporteur: Ivo Belet

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. recognises that the Internet is essential for the practical exercise of freedom of expression, cultural diversity, media pluralism, democratic citizenship as well as education and access to information;
2. considers in this respect that any restriction imposed on the exercise of these fundamental rights should be in accordance with the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
3. underlines the necessity of keeping the Internet secure, free, reliable and multilingual and open to every citizen of the world;
4. notes the improvements promised in the new affirmation of commitments by the United States Department of Commerce and Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN);
5. recalls nevertheless that the Internet as a global resource should not be tied to one national government and calls therefore for the emergence of a new global model of Internet Governance, based on a more accountable and more transparent governance;
6. calls for the start-up of transatlantic talks between the US and the EU administrations in order to further internationalise ICANN and to develop a model of governance guaranteeing free access and global security of the Internet, including the protection of personal data and privacy;
7. welcomes the ICANN decision to open up the domain name system to non-Latin characters;
8. underlines the importance of initiatives and actions for the protection of minors online such as the Safer Internet programme;
9. calls for more initiatives to strengthen the safe exploration of the Internet by children, to disseminate best practices world wide, and to reinforce international cooperation in the fight against harmful and illegal content online.