



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

2009/2224(INI)

28.4.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the Internet of Things
(2009/2224(INI))

Rapporteur: Christian Engström

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection 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. Calls on the Commission to clarify what aspects of Internet governance it feels need to be regulated at this time in relation to the Internet of Things and what system will be able to safeguard the general public interest;
2. Therefore calls on the Commission to analyse issues relevant to the governance of the Internet of Things with the help of operators in the sector; also considers it vital to analyse aspects relating to Wi-Fi security systems;
3. Calls on the Commission to clarify the issue of who owns and controls data that is automatically collected and interpreted;
4. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to create more initiatives for free access to the new technologies; stresses that every initiative should have the aim of facilitating connection to, and use of, information and communication technologies and of including disadvantaged social groups;
5. Calls on the Commission and the Member States, given the major changes that the Internet of Things will involve, to provide for uniform development of technologies throughout the EU territory in order to avoid creating even greater gaps than there are already, to involve the public authorities in the process, and to recognise that public-private partnerships should be strengthened in relation to the Internet of Things and Internet governance;
6. Welcomes the Commission's intention to publish, in 2010, a Communication on privacy and trust in the information society and to continuously monitor the protection of personal data aspects, in order to safeguard consumer rights and interests;
7. Stresses that any data that can be tied to a specific consumer, through data mining or by other means, constitutes personal data that must be handled in compliance with privacy and data protection principles;
8. Stresses that transparency of follow-up costs is needed for the consumer, for example in relation to the electricity consumption of the application and deployment of things;
9. Welcomes the Commission's intention to launch a debate on the technical and legal aspects of the 'right to silence of the chips', i.e. the principle that individuals should be able to disconnect from their networked environment at any time;
10. Agrees that new standards need to be developed in an open, transparent and consensual manner with the participation of all interested parties; stresses that all new standards in this area need to be easily and freely available to anyone, and that reference implementations also need to be freely available, as is the case with standards developed

by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF); stresses that the infrastructure of an Internet of Things needs to be efficient, scalable, reliable, secure and confidential, thereby increasing consumer protection, particularly as regards privacy and data protection;

11. Points out that there is no scientific debate on the possible hazards and damage caused by electrosmog and that the Commission should not neglect this issue;
12. Stresses that innovation and creativity constitute significant added value for Europe's economy and competitiveness and that they should be maintained and developed;
13. Agrees that it is essential that new systems and applications are not hampered by insurmountable barriers and that the interoperability of systems and applications should be encouraged;
14. Believes that the Commission should examine the possibility of further reducing data roaming costs;
15. Reminds the Commission that the EU does not currently have a leading role in terms of innovation in the field of the Internet of Things, and therefore calls on the Commission to increase funding for the Internet of Things, as part of research projects in the 7th Framework Programme and pilot projects within the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, and also to focus on developing broadband infrastructure and the roll-out of broadband.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	28.4.2010
Result of final vote	+: 27 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Cristian Silviu Buşoi, Lara Comi, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, António Fernando Correia De Campos, Jürgen Creutzmann, Christian Engström, Evelyne Gebhardt, Louis Grech, Małgorzata Handzlik, Malcolm Harbour, Sandra Kalniete, Alan Kelly, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Edvard Kožušník, Giovanni La Via, Kurt Lechner, Toine Manders, Hans-Peter Mayer, Mitro Repo, Dominique Riquet, Robert Rochefort, Zuzana Roithová, Heide Rühle, Andreas Schwab, Róza Gräfin Von Thun Und Hohenstein, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Bernadette Vergnaud
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Pascal Canfin, Othmar Karas, Amalia Sartori, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa