



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection*

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**2009/2229(INI)**

12.4.2010

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

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

Rapporteur: Catherine Stihler

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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. Recognises that the intensified use of the internet by citizens, consumers, companies and authorities implies that this communication instrument is becoming one of the fundamental elements of the completion of the internal market within the EU; stresses in this context the need for appropriate protection of consumers and intellectual property rights holders on the internet; also stresses that internet users' civil rights and freedoms must be guaranteed;
2. Recognises the importance of the internet as a way of providing information on and promoting consumers' rights;
3. Calls for the stability of the internet to be maintained, taking account of the role of the private sector, as a vital tool for economic and social activity, including online trade, the exchange of (confidential) information and financial transactions; calls in this regard upon the Commission to establish a formalised coordination structure to secure the public interests involved;
4. Calls for greater accountability of private companies which register and distribute domain names, carrying out a service which society has become largely dependent upon; considers in this context that there is a need to establish a common set of criteria to follow, with a view to increasing transparency and ensuring that such companies take on increasing responsibilities;
5. Calls for the Commission to report to Parliament annually, followed by a debate, on internet governance and the work of the ICANN review panels; welcomes the existence of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF); stresses the importance of having European Parliament and Commission representatives and representatives of internet users' associations attend the ICANN international meeting in June;
6. Asks the ICANN to give national governments a greater place in internet governance; considers that the ICANN Board of Directors should properly justify its positions when these differ from the recommendations of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC);
7. Calls for a concerted effort to combat cybercrime, in particular to increase the protection of personal data and minors, while not hampering the open nature of the internet;
8. Calls for easier access to and development of the internet in newer Member States, particularly in rural areas, and in developing countries through programmes funded by the European Union; further calls for these countries to be granted greater influence in shaping internet governance policy;
9. Emphasises that internet governance should facilitate e-commerce and cross-border transactions by decentralising the self-regulatory roles, especially in setting entry

conditions for new competitors;

10. Considers that any future governance arrangements should reflect the public interest of society as a whole and should not be subject to capture by narrow commercial or regional interests; considers that the public policy framework needs to be improved with this in mind;
11. Endorses the Commission Communication where it refers to the importance of the principles of transparency, multilateralism and accountability in the operation of the ICANN's bodies;
12. Regrets that the Commission Communication does not regard the protection of intellectual property rights, and especially the fight against counterfeiting and pirating, as a principle of internet governance;
13. Welcomes the fact that the Commission Communication, bearing in mind the international context, explicitly refers to respect for human rights, particularly freedom of expression, as essential principles of internet governance.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	8.4.2010
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 30 -: 0 0: 6
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Adam Bielan, 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, Iliana Ivanova, Philippe Juvin, Toine Manders, Hans-Peter Mayer, Tiziano Motti, Gianni Pittella, Mitro Repo, Robert Rochefort, Zuzana Roithová, Heide Rühle, Christel Schaldemose, Andreas Schwab, Laurence J.A.J. Stassen, Catherine Stihler, Eva-Britt Svensson, Róza Gräfin Von Thun Und Hohenstein, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Emilie Turunen, Barbara Weiler
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Regina Bastos, Constance Le Grip, Rareş-Lucian Niculescu, Konstantinos Poupakis, Sylvana Rapti, Kerstin Westphal