Internet Governance BAROMETER (JANUARY 2016)

IG Barometer indicates the presence of specific IG issues in the public policy debate in comparison to the previous month

Global IG Architecture

WSIS+10: Rough consensus reached on development, security, and human rights issues; ambiguous compromise around enhanced cooperation arrangement. IGF mandate extended for 10 years. Main focus will be on the implementation of the decision to strengthen the IGF.

World Economic Forum report: In light of recent concerns over the Internet's stability, WEF's latest report looked at technical, governmental, and commercial challenges that, if left unattended, could lead to fragmentation of the Internet.

Sustainable development

WSIS+10 outcomes linked to sustainable development, as all SDGs will rely on digital technologies in the implementation process.

2016 World Development Report: While digital technologies have been spreading, digital dividends have not; countries need to support 'analog complements'; two actions proposed.

Security

Ukraine the target of cyber-attacks: electrical substations disconnected from the grid; Kiev's main airport hit.

In the UK, Internet companies stressed that encryption is 'a fundamental security tool', while civil society groups and experts signed an open letter requesting governments worldwide to reject proposals – such as the implementation of backdoors – that would undermine encryption.

Privacy and human rights

European Court of Human Rights ruled that employers may read private communications made during office hours. Court did not consider it unreasonable for an employer to want to verify that the employees are completing their professional tasks during working hours. In a separate judgment, Hungary's surveillance of private individuals on anti-terror grounds was ruled illegal.

Infrastructure

European Commission to present legislative proposal in February to harmonise the use of radio spectrum in the EU.

LiFi – a data transmission method that is 100 times faster than WiFi – gained attention in the media.

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Net neutrality

Council of Europe adopted recommendation on the protection and promotion of freedom of expression and the right to a private life with regard to net neutrality. Users' rights should not be restricted by means of blocking, slowing down, or discriminating Internet traffic.

Free Basics was banned from India and Egypt. World Development Report raised concerns on the protection of net neutrality principles.

E-commerce and Internet economy

UK government pressure on intermediaries continued over backdoors into encrypted software and products.

Debates on taxation took place in different countries: USA debated permanent ban on Internet access taxes; Indian intermediaries sought tax exemptions for start-ups; Pakistan urged to remove taxes on broadband and data services.

Jurisdiction and legal issues

EU Data Protection Regulation to put 'one-stop-shop' approach in motion, through which companies with operations in more than one EU country will be regulated by the national Data Protection Authority in that country where the company has its 'main establishment'.

New European Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Platform is launched; platform to help consumers and traders settle online disputes through dispute resolution rather than through court proceedings.

IANA transition

Implementation efforts under way, as work needs to be completed for transition to occur. CCWG-Accountability received comments over its third draft proposal.

Support anticipated for ICANN accountability proposal.

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