



The Voice of the European Internet Industry

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

EuroISPA at a glance

EuroISPA is the world's largest Internet Services Providers (ISP) association, representing more than 2500 ISPs across Europe.

EuroISPA is the voice of the European Internet industry on Internet-related policy issues, including data protection, cybercrime and cybersecurity, e-commerce, and telecommunications law.

EuroISPA represents national ISP associations in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Romania and the United Kingdom.

Across dossiers, EuroISPA advocates for a European legislative environment that encourages innovation and secures the fundamental open characteristics of the Internet.

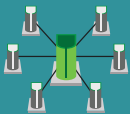
WHO WE REPRESENT



Internet Access Providers



Telecom Operators



Internet Exchanges



Hosting Providers



Domain name registries



Industry Hotlines

ACTIVITIES



Legislative monitoring



Industry promotion



Information exchange



Advocacy

| Word of the President

Writing in these pages last year, I committed EuroISPA towards an ambitious agenda of advocacy, outreach, and profile-building. Indeed, 2015 constituted the first year of the flagship EuroISPA 2020 strategy, our vision to realise an innovation-friendly EU regulatory environment that allows the 2500 Internet Services Providers whom we represent to flourish. In the coming pages we take stock of our achievements thus far and the steps we need to take to drive Europe towards digitally-driven prosperity.



Our focus on fostering innovative-friendly legislation found a great variety of expression in 2015. Perhaps most notably was our activity around the flagship Digital Single Market (DSM) strategy – the EU’s long-term policy roadmap that rightly places digital at the core of Europe’s economic, social, and political development. We were successful in ensuring an ambitious DSM strategy that committed to maintain the legislative infrastructure that underpins Europe’s digital economy, namely, the protection of intermediary liability provisions enshrined in EU law.

A number of longstanding legislative discussions to which EuroISPA had engaged with closely came to fruition in 2015. In particular, I am happy to report that our efforts helped ensure the new EU-wide data protection rules properly balanced innovative uses of data with the need for consumer protection and privacy. A similar course played out in discussions around new EU cybersecurity rules, where we successfully kept small and medium-sized Internet enablers out of the scope of burdensome obligations.

But our efforts were not just focused on technical policy discussions. In 2015 we made a priority of promoting a “think-digital-first” mentality among EU-level policymakers. To that end, we held a number of events in Brussels and beyond aimed at highlighting the innovation and enabling role our members facilitate across the economy.

Many of our efforts in 2015 will follow on into 2016, as the EU Institutions begin to grapple with new Digital Single Market legislation. This year our policy efforts will focus on ensuring that the intermediary liability regime that has proven fundamental to the development of the Internet in Europe is maintained. We will also place a priority on bringing about the removal of internal barriers to digital content, to empower European businesses and consumers to get the most value from our networks.

Indeed from copyright reform to data retention and everything in between, EuroISPA will continue to serve as the voice of the European Internet industry, guiding legislation that advances Europe’s trajectory towards true digitalisation.

Oliver J. Süme
EuroISPA President

2015 Activity

FOSTERING INNOVATION

In 2015, we undertook targeted and co-ordinated actions to ensure European policymakers shape policy that promotes digitally-driven innovation.



A snapshot of what we did:

- Secured SME exemptions and a light-touch regulatory approach in the Network and Information Security Directive (EU cybersecurity rules).
- Persuaded the European Commission to resist other stakeholders' calls to reopen the intermediary liability provisions of the E-Commerce Directive.
- Ensured inclusion of innovation-friendly provisions in key articles of the General Data Protection regulation (EU data protection rules).
- Engaged with the Court of Justice of the European Union in the effort to ensure a positive interpretation of key liability provisions of the EU E-Commerce Directive (McFadden case).
- Represented the European Internet industry in high-level discussions with the European Commission on replacing the Safe Harbour data transfer mechanism.
- Successfully lobbied the European Institutions about the importance of removing internal barriers for digital content, resulting in the proposed regulation for content portability.

An overview of how we did it:

- Open letters to high-level public representatives on issues such as Safer Internet funding, the Digital Single Market strategy, and copyright reform.
- Meetings with key influencers in the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the Member State representations in Brussels.
- Substantial contributions to European Commission public consultations ahead of legislative reform.
- Policy monitoring and intelligence gathering around key discussions at EU level, ensuring rapid reaction capability to avert negative policy trends.

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

In 2015, EuroISPA made a priority of promoting a “think-digital-first” mentality among EU-level decision-makers and stakeholders, to highlight the impact of our sectors on the European economy.



A snapshot of what we did:

- Raised-awareness of the crucial role the Internet industry plays in protecting children online, through a Safer Internet breakfast with leading MEPs in the European Parliament.
- Brought the voice of national ISPs to the forefront in crucial legislative discussions, by inviting high-level national and EU-level policymakers to EuroISPA General Meetings.
- Represented pro-innovation views in challenging environments, by being one of only two Internet stakeholders to speak at the European Parliament’s influential IPR Working Group.
- Brought important policy discussions to new spaces, by convening a high-level data localisation panel at the HostingCon Europe event in Amsterdam.

An overview of how we did it:

- Organising events featuring national and EU-level policymakers and experts.
- Participating in third party events around the EU and international policy sphere.
- Facilitating technical discussions between EuroISPA members and policymakers.

RAISING PROFILE

As the meeting point of 2500 ISPs across Europe and along the Internet value chain, EuroISPA's membership constitutes an unrivalled network of technical expertise and industry insight. In 2015, we sought to capitalise on that unique position to further the policy wants of European ISPs.



A snapshot of what we did:

- Brought the EuroISPA message to new audiences, by securing substantial reference to our policy positions in high-profile media outlets, such as the New York Times, and the official European Parliament magazine.
- Positioned EuroISPA as a key thought-leader in EU-level policy discussions, by organising a policy briefing on the Digital Single Market with a leading European Commission cabinet member.
- Raised the profile of European ISPs on the international stage, by participating in high-level Internet governance discussions from Brazil to South Korea.
- Harnessed EuroISPA's unique expertise in the stakeholder ecosystem, by providing a technical training workshop to European Commission officials.

An overview of how we did it:

- Development and execution of a new communications strategy, ensuring communications plays a powerful role in advancing EuroISPA's policy vision.
- Collaboration with like-minded policy stakeholders across sectors, through various coalitions such as the Industry Coalition for Data Protection and the Security Alliance for Europe.

POLICY MONITOR

In 2015, we undertook targeted and co-ordinated actions to ensure European policymakers shape policy that promotes digitally-driven innovation.



Intermediary liability

- McFadden case at the European Court of Justice
- Delfi case at the European Court of Human Rights
- Digital Single Market strategy

Innovation & Growth

- European Parliament copyright modernisation report
- European Commission content portability regulation
- Audiovisual Media Services Directive
- Satellite and Cable Directive

Net Neutrality

- Single Telecoms Market Regulation

Market and Services

- Telecoms package revision
- Broadband provision in rural areas

Data protection

- General Data Protection Regulation
- Safe Harbour renegotiation
- European Commission free-flow-of-data initiative

Cybercrime & security

- Network and Information Security Directive
- European Parliament Prevention of Radicalisation Report

Safer Internet

- Hotline funding
- Implementation reports on “CSAM Directive”

International Affairs

- Internet Governance Forum
- IANA transition

Policy Overview



Oliver Süme
Chair of Data Protection
Committee

Data Protection (Chair: Oliver Süme)

The final agreement on the new General Data Protection Regulation was a major event in 2015, and on crucial aspects of the new Regulation we managed to secure an innovation-friendly legal basis. We were also an important interlocutor in EU-level discussions around the development of the Privacy Shield framework, and EuroISPA participated in a number of important exchanges with the highest levels of the European Commission. With 2016 expected to see a revision of the E-Privacy Directive as well as a new White Paper on Internet platforms and their uses of data, EuroISPA and its members will continue to advocate in several areas for a data protection environment that encourages innovation and guarantees users' fundamental rights.



Maximilian Schubert
Chair of Cybercrime
& Cybersecurity
Committee

Cybercrime & Cybersecurity (Chair: Maximilian Schubert)

Following the annulment of the EU Data Retention directive EuroISPA has worked with all stakeholders towards a legislative framework that properly balances the fundamental rights of users and ISPs and the legitimate interest of law enforcement agencies. EuroISPA thus actively supported the development of the Network and Information Security Directive, the first dedicated EU-level cybersecurity legislation. As a trusted partner, EuroISPA expressed the views of 2500 members from all sectors of the European Internet economy and achieved not only an exception for small and medium entities but also secured a "light-touch approach" that meets the aims of the Directive in a pro-innovation environment. In 2016, we will continue to work hard to promote our members' perspectives in the implementation phase of the NIS Directive. We will also be actively contributing to important EU-level discussions around tackling cybercrime, with the aim of guaranteeing a safe online environment.



Carole Gay
Co-Chair of Safer
Internet Committee

Safer Internet (Co-Chairs: Carole Gay, Paul Durrant)

In 2015 EuroISPA members remained at the forefront of efforts to protect children online. Moreover we continued our advocacy around the need to preserve public funding for a strong network of European Hotlines to provide qualified notices to law enforcement and ISPs to rapidly remove Child Sexual Abuse Material online. To that end we contributed to a European Parliament resolution on the fight against CSAM and highlighted the funding challenges for Hotlines to key influencers across the EU Institutions. In addition, we organised a breakfast event with leading MEPs in June 2015, to highlight the efforts of the European ISP industry to protect children online. The coming year will build on this success and also see an increased focus on other types of illegal content online, particularly terrorist and radical content.



Paul Durrant
Co-Chair of Safer
Internet Committee



Malcolm Hutty
Chair of Intermediary
Liability and
International Affairs
Committees

Intermediary Liability (Chair: Malcolm Hutty)

During 2015 EuroISPA again successfully advocated for the European intermediary liability protection regime, the continuing value of which was recognised most recently in the European Commission's Digital Single Market strategy. Our message is clear: liability protections for internet intermediaries is the foundation stone for a strong digital single market in Europe. This message was heard in the corridors of the European Commission, European Parliament, and European Court of Justice. Our voice also travelled to South Korea, where we showcased the EU E-Commerce Directive as international best practice. The coming year will be marked by important policy reflections concerning "notice and action" and tackling serious crime online where EuroISPA will again be called to defend internet intermediaries.

International Affairs (Chair: Malcolm Hutty)

With the increasing importance of the Internet to peoples' everyday lives, governments' attempts to control Internet content and behaviour are a global political issue. EuroISPA represents the European Internet industry in important governance discussions around the world. In 2015, there was a particular emphasis on the IANA transition and developing a new accountability framework for ICANN, work we hope to conclude in 2016. In the coming year we will continue to participate in developing and refining the Internet's core institutions, and we will continue to champion the multi-stakeholder model for Internet governance through our role in the Internet Governance Forum and similar initiatives.



Innocenzo Genna
Chair of Innovation &
Growth, Net Neutrality
and Market & Services
Committees

Innovation & Growth (Chair: Innocenzo Genna)

In 2015 EuroISPA greatly contributed to the EU Institutions' reflections around copyright modernisation, by answering consultations, engaging in relevant events and by meeting key policymakers to advance a pro-innovation, pro-competitive narrative. We were particularly active in the context of the European Parliament's report on modernising copyright in spring 2015, as well as the European Commission public consultations on the Audiovisual Media Services Directive and the Satellite and Cable Directives. The recent proposal for an online content portability regulation is a positive step in the efforts to adapt the copyright framework to the digital age. EuroISPA is looking forward to the upcoming proposals in 2016, with the aim of creating a regulatory environment where business models that allow innovative access to legal content can prosper in Europe.

Net Neutrality and Market & Services (Chair: Innocenzo Genna)

EuroISPA followed developments around net neutrality at EU level for several years, up to and including the Single Telecoms Market regulation that was adopted in 2015. While not taking a proactive advocacy position amongst the various stakeholders, EuroISPA followed net neutrality discussions in order to provide the European Institutions with its expertise, as well as to identify and react to any developments that could affect members' interests with respect to neighbouring policy issues. On Market & Services issues EuroISPA continues to monitor the review of the EU telecoms regulatory framework, as well as issues surrounding broadband in rural areas.

EuroISPA Team

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L'Association
Française des
Prestataires de
l'Internet



Internet Services
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Associazione Italiana
Internet Provider



Internet Services
Providers' Association
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Association of the
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Industry



London Internet
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Nederland ICT



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CZ.NIC



Fédération Française
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Belgian Internet
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FiCom



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LIBERTY GLOBAL





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