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Foreword
Alexandra Laffitte

With the passing of another busy year, it’s now our moment to step back and take stock of what we have worked on and achieved over the past year. As such, I proudly present to you the latest edition of EuroISPA Annual Policy Report. Over the course of 2021, we focused on driving forward the momentum on various policy files of relevance for the internet services providers industry, aiming to ensure that our members’ needs are represented at EU policy level, and that our members gain as much value from being a part of the association as possible.

This year’s Annual Policy Report an overview of EuroISPA’s progress on several policy areas including intermediary liability, cybersecurity, safer internet, innovation, and data protection. It will be no surprise to you that one of the biggest focus areas for the year was the Digital Services Act (DSA), a file which aims to update the e-Commerce Directive, thus far a cornerstone of the Digital Single Market. Building upon our policy work and activities, we launched our first series of events, entitled ‘DSA in Focus’, with the specific aim of shedding light on some of the complexities and intricacies of the DSA.

You will also find an insight into EuroISPA itself within this report: our structure, our members, and our news and events. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic persisted into 2021, and we continued to focus on ensuring continuity in our work and in the services our sector offers. As an association, we are constantly striving to offer our members valuable and insightful information, as well as representing them on the EU public affairs stage.

Last, but not least, this year’s Report also highlights an important milestone for EuroISPA itself: our 25th Anniversary! Over the past quarter of a century, EuroISPA has been striving to bring the views of internet service providers to the attention of EU policy makers and help shape policies that support a sustainable growth of the sector. The first half of 2022 has already shown us that we must stick together to ensure that the ISP sector can continue to thrive and have a positive impact on society and businesses. We must continue to work collectively, within our association and with other organisations, to find the best approach to face the challenges of the future.

We hope you enjoy reading our report, and we would like to extend a particular thanks to our members for their crucial role in making these achievements a reality.

EuroISPA at a Glance

Established in 1997, EuroISPA is the world’s largest association of Internet Services Providers (ISPs), representing the interests of over 3,300 ISPs across the EU and EFTA countries. EuroISPA is recognised as the voice of the European ISPs industry, reflecting the views of members of all shapes and sizes.

EuroISPA engages at EU level on behalf of its members on a wide range of policy issues, including intermediary liability, ePrivacy, cross border access to electronic evidence, child sexual abuse material and much more. Through its active role in EU-level discussions, EuroISPA ensures that the ISPs industry’s voice is at the forefront of decisions impacting the future of the Internet.

Who are we?
We are a collection of trade associations and companies from across Europe who work together to find common views on the main discussions on EU digital policy.

What is our aim?
We aim to protect and promote the crucial role of European ISPs in the ever-changing Internet landscape.

“”
Our Policy Work

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Intermediary Liability

Digital Services Act

The year 2021 marked the examination of and the start of the negotiations on the proposal for the Digital Services Act (DSA). The DSA will update the e-Commerce Directive, which has been the cornerstone of the Digital Single Market for the last 20 years.

EuroISPA has played an active role in the discussions: first, by contributing as a thought leader on intermediary liability and content moderation issues through the development of position papers and by taking part in consultations and studies on different elements of the proposal; second, by regularly meeting and engaging directly with policymakers in all three institutions to share its expertise and views on the most controversial issues; and third, by organising EuroISPA’s “DSA in Focus” series of events between April 2021 and January 2022. This series of events consisted of six high-level panel discussions aiming to put specific aspects of the DSA under a microscope and open nuanced debates on the topics. Over 15 policy experts from EU institutions, regulatory bodies, industry, academia, and civil society were invited to debate on: the new notice and action regime, the reporting and transparency obligations, enforcement or the issue of liability of intermediaries, among other topics.
Our first event in the DSA in Focus series examined the new provisions in the DSA aiming to improve the management of illegal content online.

The panellists discussed the importance of establishing a framework where users can share content freely online and are empowered to flag problematic content without it leading to an over-removal of legitimate content. They agreed on the necessity to avoid over-regulation and to ensure there are no onerous barriers for businesses.

The panel was moderated by Alexandra Laffitte, President of EuroISPA.

The panel included:

Opening remarks by Malcolm Hutty, Chair of EuroISPA’s Intermediary Liability Committee

- MEP Dita Charanzová, Shadow rapporteur on the DSA report in IMCO
- Malcolm Hutty, Chair of EuroISPA’s Intermediary Liability Committee
- MEP Henna Virkkunen, Rapporteur for the ITRE opinion on the DSA
- Iverna McGowan, Director at the Centre for Democracy and Technology

Our second event in the DSA in Focus series focused on provisions in the DSA going beyond the notice and action processes, such as measures on codes of conduct, the know your business customer principle, trusted flaggers, and risk mitigation for very large online platforms (VLOPs).

The panellists discussed the limitations of self-regulation, how content moderation activities should be improved, and how to ensure that trusted flaggers mechanisms are not abused. They highlighted the potential detrimental impact of freedom of speech online and on the right to privacy.

The panel was moderated by Alexandra Laffitte, President of EuroISPA.

The panel included:

- Prabhat Agarwal, Head of Unit in charge of E-Commerce and Platforms at DG CNECT in the European Commission
- Marco Pancini, Director of Public Policy at YouTube
- Heleen Uijt de Haag, Deputy Director at the Dutch Digital Economy Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, The Netherlands

Our third event in the DSA in Focus series dived into transparency requirements for intermediaries, online platforms, and VLOPs, as well as the issue of access to data, statements of reasons, vetted researchers and access to data, and more.

The panellists highlighted the importance for the DSA to build on the principles of the e-Commerce Directive, for transparency requirements to take into account the limited resources of smaller players in the sector, and for algorithms to be understandable for both users and authorities.

The panel was moderated by Alexandra Laffitte, President of EuroISPA.

The panel included:

- Irene Roche Laguna, Deputy Head of Unit, E-Commerce & Platforms at DG CNECT in the European Commission
- Michal Feix, Senior Public Affairs Advisor to Seznam.cz
- Diego Naranjo, Head of Policy of EDRi

Our fourth event in the DSA in Focus series concentrated on the DSA articles on the limited exemption from secondary liability for intermediary services, due diligence, own-initiative investigations, and general monitoring provisions.

During their discussion, the panellists noted that law enforcement investigation should remain in the hands of judicial independent authorities rather than private actors, that a horizontal approach to sector-specific legislation is stronger, and that amendments which lead to over-removal of content should be avoided.

The panel was moderated by Alexandra Laffitte, President of EuroISPA.

The panel included:

Opening remarks by Malcolm Hutty, Chair of EuroISPA’s Intermediary Liability Committee

- MEP Patrick Breyer, Rapporteur on the DSA opinion in the LIBE Committee
- Dr. Christina Angelopoulos, Lecturer in Intellectual Property Law at the University of Cambridge
- Catherine Garcia-van Hoogstraten, Director Responsible Technology Policy, EU Government Affairs at Microsoft
- Malcolm Hutty, Chair of EuroISPA’s Intermediary Liability Committee
DSA in Focus Event 5
2 December 2021
Implementation, Extra-Territorial Application and Enforcement

Our fifth event in the DSA in Focus series looked into the DSA’s provisions on the country-of-origin principle, extra-territorial jurisdiction, and the Digital Services Coordinators.

The panelists discussed their satisfaction with the fact that the DSA is ensuring that illegal content is treated equally offline and online, and highlighted that small companies are the main drivers of the Internet economy and as such burdensome regulatory requirements should be avoided.

The panel was moderated by Alexandra Laffitte, President of EuropolSPA. The panel included:
- Malcolm Hutty, Chair of EuropolSPA’s Intermediary Liability Committee
- Michal Pukaluk, Director of the Digital Policy Department in the Office of the Polish Prime Minister
- Tobias Schmid, Commissioner for European Affairs of the German Media Authorities (DLM) and former Chair of ERGA
- Christian Dawson, Executive Director with the i2Coalition

Terrorist Content Online

The Regulation to prevent the dissemination of terrorist content online entered into force on 6 June 2021 and applies as of 7 June 2022. Regrettably, an inflexible one-hour timeframe to execute removal orders was included in the final text. EuropolSPA warned that such a measure risks impacting the quality of decisions made by companies and could potentially lead to an increase in removals of legitimate content and in misuse of the system. This will be especially problematic for smaller businesses without previous experience of encountering terrorist content, who will not have pre-existing relationships with anti-terror police or an awareness of good practice guidance. Throughout the course of 2021, EuropolSPA contributed to achieving an agreement on very much needed flexibility on the penalties. These will be determined by Member States, who will need to consider the nature and size of the hosting service provider, thus mitigating risks of high sanctions for micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Going forward, EuropolSPA’s members will maintain a constructive dialogue with their respective competent authorities and will keep tackling terrorist content online efficiently and responsibly in order to ensure a safe Internet for EU citizens and businesses.

DSA in Focus Event 6
26 January 2022
The Upcoming DSA Trilogues & the Future of Content Moderation

Our sixth and final event in the DSA in Focus series took stock of the discussions the co-legislators had in 2021 and shared insights on what can be expected in the upcoming trilogues.

The panel discussion raised points such as the importance of the horizontal approach of the DSA, the necessity to address and adapt the DSA regularly, and that the trilogues should focus on finding a balanced system between regulation, co-regulation, and self-regulation.

The panel was moderated by Alexandra Laffitte, President of EuropolSPA. The panel included:
- Mathieu Welli, Head of the Digital Economy Department at the French Ministry of Economy
- Stefano Montanari, Adviser to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- Tobias Schmid, Commissioner for European Affairs of the German Media Authorities (DLM) and former Chair of ERGA

DSA in Focus Event 6
26 January 2022
The Upcoming DSA Trilogues & the Future of Content Moderation

The Upcoming DSA Trilogues

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Configuring the DSA for Live Sports Events

In May 2021, the European Parliament announced its recommendation to tackle piracy of sports live events, calling on the Commission to adapt existing legislation. The changes include the possibility of issuing injunctions requesting the real-time blocking of access to unauthorised online content, or the removal of such content. Since then, the Commission has been organising a series of meetings with stakeholders, including with ISPs, to gather information about current practices in Member States and to understand the effectiveness of web-blocking practices, the accuracy of fingerprinting and watermarking solutions, and the functioning of the implementation of dynamic injunctions. EuropolSPA has been actively participating in these meetings to emphasise that web-blocking is an inefficient approach which risks leading to undesired effects such as the over-blocking of legitimate content.

EuroISPA highlighted the main concerns for the sector in terms of the 30-minute timeframe for content-blocking, the risks of not having due process, the role of trusted flaggers, the technical limitations, and the possible costs and burdens for ISPs. The Commission will continue organising structured discussions with stakeholders and will announce its conclusions and proposed measures in 2022.

Council of Europe’s Consultation on Combating Hate Speech

In June 2021, the Council of Europe’s Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech (AD/MSI-DIS) launched a public consultation to collect feedback on its draft recommendation to combat hate speech, including in the online environment. The draft Recommendations will provide non-binding guidance for Member States and other key stakeholders, including Internet intermediaries.

EuroISPA, as a member of the Council of Europe Partnership with Digital Companies, a co-operation framework with Internet companies and representative associations, welcomed the positive recommendations, such as the inclusion of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)2 on the roles and responsibilities of Internet intermediaries and the protection of due process, adequate oversight, and independent
judicial review. However, EuroISPA also called for a clearer approach that distinguishes obligations depending on the level of interaction with the content and cautioned against encouraging any measures against harmful (yet legal) content.

Cybersecurity & Cybercrime

e-evidence

The e-evidence Regulation aims to enhance cross-border gathering of electronic evidence in criminal matters, regulating the European Production and Preservation Orders. This is relevant for EuroISPA’s members as the proposed legislation will allow competent authorities from one Member State to request access to the electronic data needed for the investigation and prosecution of crimes covered by the Regulation directly from a service provider established in another Member State. This entails important changes for Internet Services Providers, that are accustomed to cooperating with domestic judicial authorities and have effective and fruitful cooperation at national level. Therefore, it is crucial to build a mechanism that avoids abuses and that relies on a Common European Exchange System, a framework that will be decisive for the proper functioning of the new legal regime. Inter institutional negotiations on the topic started in February 2021, however, no major progress was achieved during the months following this first meeting. The very different positions on the issue of notification and on the role of service providers remain the main obstacles for the negotiations to proceed. The efforts of the German and Slovenian Presidencies in 2021 were not enough to overcome the opposition from several Member States to move away from the General Approach and the strong stance of the Parliament’s Rapporteur, MEP Birgit Sippel, which EuroISPA generally supports. Negotiations will continue in 2022 under the French Presidency of the Council.

EuroISPA was an active player during this process, signing a joint open letter with other organisations calling for greater safeguards when it comes to fundamental rights protection, organising a series of meetings with Member States’ representatives to exchange on our recommendations for a future-proof and balanced e-evidence legislation, and engaging with the European Commission in relation to this proposal and the 2nd Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Budapest Convention on Cybercrime. In 2022, EuroISPA will proactively engage with policymakers to push for a framework that is not overburdening for ISPs and that respects fundamental rights and freedoms.

2nd Additional Protocol to Budapest Convention on Cybercrime

After three years and six rounds of consultations, the Council of Europe finalised the 2nd Additional Protocol to the Cybercrime Convention. During this period, EuroISPA provided its expert views with the aim of contributing to a text that balances the interests of service providers and law enforcement authorities (LEAs). EuroISPA insisted on the need to exempt SMEs, create single points of contact, and use templates or introduce a unified electronic data exchange system. Furthermore, EuroISPA flagged issues in relation to the introduction of direct cross-border production orders, considering the on-going discussions on the e-evidence Regulation at EU level, and called for additional safeguards like the ex-ante review of a production order or the introduction of mandatory cost-reimbursement. The final text was opened for signature in May 2022.

Collaborations & Network: Council of Europe

In 2021, EuroISPA continued to build upon its long-standing cooperation with the Council of Europe, with the aim of promoting respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law on the Internet. In the CoE’s 2021 activity report on their partnerships with digital and telecoms organisations, EuroISPA was listed as the fourth most active overall stakeholder, and the most active association.

NIS2 Directive

The Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS Directive) plays a key role in strengthening cybersecurity in Europe. Since its implementation, it has enhanced coordination and facilitated a more consistent approach to network and information security. Although EuroISPA welcomed the European Commission’s intention to update the Directive in response to the evolving cybersecurity landscape, the NIS2 proposal came only two years after the effective implementation of the original NIS Directive, meaning Member States had little time to assess its functioning. Consequently, the primary objective of the revision is to achieve a greater harmonisation and an improvement of security levels across the EU without causing unnecessary burdens or costs to the affected providers.

In 2021, European Parliament and Member States discussed the European Commission’s proposal and agreed to initiate negotiations in 2022, although aspects such as the scope, the interplay with sector-specific acts, supervision, or jurisdiction and territoriality would require further effort from negotiators before an agreement can be found.

EuroISPA actively engaged with Member States’ representatives as well as with the rapporteur of the file in the European Parliament, MEP Groothuis, throughout 2021. EuroISPA aimed to cultivate productive exchanges to ensure the revision introduces a consistent resilience framework with targeted obligations that allow appropriate oversight, while maintaining appropriate safeguards and a reasonable approach to issues such as encryption or certification schemes.

Encryption

Undermining encryption is known to have serious detrimental effects on fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, privacy, data protection, and cybersecurity. It is for this reason that EuroISPA supports strong encryption as a crucial aspect of security in the digital world and is against the use of any weakening methods such as backdoors. Encryption is essential for the correct functioning of the Internet; it safeguards users’ trust and privacy, protects and enhances our economy beyond the digital world, and helps companies ensure sensitive and valuable data remains safe. EuroISPA’s members have a long history...
of collaboration with law enforcement authorities (LEAs) across Europe, supporting their crucial role in protecting citizens and businesses while ensuring their privacy, security, and trust.

In 2021, under the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Member States adopted the Council Conclusions on Internal Security and European Police Partnership, recognising encryption as a key component of trust in the digital sphere and requesting the development of a framework in conjunction with industry. The EU Council also emphasised the need to find solutions that support the ability of law enforcement and judicial authorities to exercise their lawful powers, both online and offline. EuroISPA will continue to monitor this key topic in order to ensure a secure and trustworthy online environment.

Data Retention

In 2021, the European Commission continued exploring what a potential future legislative proposal on data retention could look like, and published a non-paper entitled, “The way forward on data retention”. This presents potential regulatory and non-regulatory options for Member States to give feedback on, rather than illustrating the official position of the European Commission. The options provided range from refraining to present any proposal, to a series of different approaches exploring general and targeted retention of different types of data (i.e., traffic, location, or IP data) in different circumstances (i.e., national security purposes, serious crimes, etc.).

EuroISPA has been following these developments closely and will continue to do so. We are ready to engage in the discussion to defend a proposal that allows a smooth collaboration with Law Enforcement while respecting fundamental rights and freedoms and that is coherent with the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). The latter has already provided clear guidance on achieving this balance and has clarified that such rules should not create more obligations for ISPs to store additional user data than what is necessary for legitimate purposes.

Safer Internet

Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)

One of the main goals of EuroISPA is to achieve a safer internet for children. This has been a priority for the past 25 years, with EuroISPA’s members, including telcos, platforms, and hotlines, being at the forefront of the efforts to prevent, detect, remove, and report these heinous crimes.

In February 2021, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the future Regulation on the detection, removal, and reporting of child sexual abuse online. The proposal, which was published on 11 May 2022, requires online service providers to detect child sexual abuse online and to report that material to public authorities. The Commission will also create a European centre for preventing and countering child sexual abuse, which brings together the online and offline aspects of this fight. The new regulation aims to complement and improve existing EU activities for protecting children from sexual abuse, however, EuroISPA has concerns about how operational the text is. EuroISPA will continue monitoring the potential impact these measures will have on privacy and end-to-end encryption.

EuroISPA has been active in the consultation process and has participated in a series of stakeholder meetings organised by the European Commission. During these meetings, EuroISPA spoke in defence of the proportionality and flexibility of the measures, the preservation of strong end-to-end encryption, and the exclusion of the scope of Internet infrastructure companies.

EuroISPA also worked extensively on the temporary derogation of the ePrivacy Directive, which allows service providers to continue detecting and removing child sexual abuse material online on a voluntary basis. The derogation, which entered into force in August 2021, should be repealed once the current proposal comes into force. However, as the derogation is only limited until August 2024, there is a sense of urgency to agree on a new framework before this deadline.

Alongside this, the Commission has launched the revision of the Directive on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation online, which establishes minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions in this area and focuses on prevention and protection of victims.

EuroISPA will continue to actively engage with relevant stakeholders and key institutional players over the course of 2022. EuroISPA and its members are committed to providing a safer Internet for children, working to find a balanced regulatory framework that protects innovation and trust in the industry, as well as fundamental rights.

EuroISPA’s membership includes several industry-run hotlines, further reinforcing the importance of this partnership, and EuroISPA looks forward to continuing its work with INHOPE in future collaborations.

INHOPE

INHOPE is a global network of 50 member hotlines, leading the fight against child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online since 1999. INHOPE’s vision is a world free of CSAM online. They support their member hotlines through training, best practices, quality assurance, and staff welfare. The longstanding and ongoing cooperation between EuroISPA and INHOPE is reflected in a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations. This cooperation remains a central feature of the Association’s work on hotlines, notably in tackling CSAM. EuroISPA’s membership includes several industry-run hotlines, further reinforcing the importance of this partnership, and EuroISPA looks forward to continuing its work with INHOPE in future collaborations.

Collaborations & Network: INHOPE

INHOPE

Collaborations & Network:
INHOPE

INHOPE

EuroISPA promotes an innovative and open environment for digital content and services. With this in mind we actively engaged in the discussions on copyright and established a close collaboration with the Coalition for Creativity (C4C). Our Association focused on the transposition of the Copyright Directive, particularly looking at the impact of Articles
Collaborations & Network: European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)

The EUIPO manages the European trademark and intellectual property policy. EuroISPA is a member of the EUIPO Observatory, an opportunity it uses to convey and emphasise the messages and key issues of the Internet industry with regards to intellectual property practices. Alexandra Laffitte is also an expert for the EUIPO in her personal capacity and provides input on relevant issues.

Collaborations & Network: Coalition for Creativity (C4C)

The C4C gathers industry, civil society, consumer groups, and creators who have a shared vision of a modernised copyright regime in Europe. Since its founding in 2012, EuroISPA has played a leading role in the coalition’s work and continues to do so, with a particular focus on issues concerning piracy and copyright enforcement.

Data Protection: ePrivacy

After four years of discussions, the ePrivacy file was finally adopted in the EU Council, opening the door for negotiations between Member States and the European Parliament. Although co-legislators managed to schedule two political trilogues in 2021, no major breakthroughs were achieved and the file was left to the French Presidency starting in 2022. EuroISPA welcomed the start of the trilogues, using the opportunity to emphasise that greater legal clarity is needed when it comes to the material scope, business-to-business (B2B) and machine-to-machine (M2M) processing. In this context, EuroISPA also warned against measures that restrict innovative and new approaches and asked policymakers to bear in mind the interoperability between the ePrivacy Regulation and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) regime as a key element for a free and open Internet.

Collaborations & Network: European Internet Forum (EIF)

The EIF is a platform led by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) which allows for discussions on digital files between MEPs, industry representatives, and NGOs. It also enables high-level discussions on the political direction of digital legislation and fosters a greater understanding of the impact of technological development. The EIF is an important platform for EuroISPA, offering the opportunity to have fruitful exchanges with stakeholders, gain insight into central digital files, and voice the European Internet industry’s concerns and policy suggestions. Innocenzo Genna continued to represent EuroISPA on the Board of the EIF in 2021.

Collaborations & Network: Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

ICANN is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet’s unique identifiers. Through its coordination role of the Internet’s naming system, it has an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet.
Timeline of 2021

January
- Contribution to a Dutch study on DSA
- Committee meetings: Cybersecurity, Intermediary Liability, Data Protection

February
- Published statement on the ePrivacy Council agreement
- Shared position on e-evidence
- Participated in expert meeting with Dutch government on DSA
- Meetings with the Permanent Representations of France, Ireland, Finland and Belgium to the EU, and office of MEP Lagodinsky on e-evidence
- Officers Meeting
- Committee meetings: Intermediary Liability, Safer Internet

March
- Responded to the European Commission consultation on the DSA
- Published position on the DSA
- Shared position on the NIS2 Directive
- Participated in European Commission meeting on CSA legislative initiative
- EUIP Observatory Working Group Meetings
- General Meeting. Guest Speaker: Denton Howard, Executive Director of INHOPE
- Committee meetings: Safer Internet

April
- DSA in Focus Event 1: New Notice and Action Regime. Panellists: Iverna Roche Laguna (EC), Michel Feix (Seznam), Diego Naranjo (EDR)
- DSA in Focus Event 2: Liability of Intermediaries. Panellists: MEP Breyer, Christina Angelopoulos (University of Cambridge), Catherine Garcia-van Hoostraten (Microsoft), and Malcolm Hutty (EuroISPA)
- Meetings with the Cabinets of VP of Poland and Estonia to the EU, and MEP Jaki, and Representations of Spain, Denmark, and Malta to the EU, MEP Jaki, and MEP Charanzová (MEP)
- Responded to the European Commission consultation on fighting CSA
- Published statement on the adoption of the Terrorist Content Online Regulation
- Commented on the draft 2nd Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention
- Meeting with the Permanent Representation of Slovakia to the EU on the DSA
- General Meeting. Guest Speaker: MEP Groothuis on the NIS2 Directive
- Committee meetings: Safer Internet

May
- Marco Panoni (YouTube), Helsen Uijt de Haag (Netherlands: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate policy)
- Co-signed letter on the DSA with the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic (SPCR)
- Co-signed letter on e-evidence and fundamental rights
- Co-signed letter on the Copyright Directive
- Stakeholder meeting on the 2nd Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention
- Meeting with the Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU on the DSA
- Officers Meeting
- Committee meetings: Intermediary Liability, Cybersecurity

June
- Co-signed letter on the DSA
- Shared reaction to the NIS2 European Parliament report
- Commented on MEP Schaldemose’s amendments on the DSA
- Meetings with the Permanent Representations of Spain, Denmark, and Malta to the EU, MEP Jaki, and MEP Charanzová on the DSA
- Members-only webinar on DoH, DNS, and ODoH, co-hosted with Cloudflare
- Members-only webinar on EU Policy, co-hosted with ATIC
- General Meeting. Guest speaker: ec.eu’s Andreas Weiss on the GAIA-X project
- Committee meetings: Innovation & Growth Committee, Data Protection, Intermediary Liability, International Affairs

July
- New Forum member announced: Cambium Networks
- Co-signed letter on the DSA
- Co-signed letter on the new transatlantic data transfer agreement
- Published statement on the illicit online streaming of sports events
- Meeting with DG CNECT on the DSA and on the illicit live-streaming of sports events
- Meetings with Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU and MEP Tang on the DSA
- Meeting with Office of NIS2 Reporteur MEP Groothuis
- Launched the mySCCCreator tool on website, via Fieldfisher

August
- Shared observations on the CoE’s hate speech recommendations

September
- DSA in Focus Event 3: Reporting Obligations and Transparency. Panellists: Iverna Roche Laguna (EC), Michel Feix (Seznam), Diego Naranjo (EDR)
- DSA in Focus Event 4: Liability of Intermediaries. Panellists: MEP Breyer, Christina Angelopoulos (University of Cambridge), Catherine Garcia-van Hoostraten (Microsoft), and Malcolm Hutty (EuroISPA)
- Meetings with the Cabinets of Executive VP and Commissioner for Competition Margrethe Vestager and Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders
- Alexandra Laffitte spoke at the Moldova ICT Summit
- General Meeting. Guest speaker: Michel Tao, Head of Unit “Data Economy and Software”, Directorate General for Enterprise, Ministry of Economy and Finance on the French Cloud Strategy
- Officers Meeting
- Committee meetings: Safer Internet and Markets & Services

October
- New Council member announced: AMS-IX
- Forum Member Cambium Networks hosted webinar: Dynamic Shared Access Spectrum in Europe
- EUIP Observatory Meetings in Eindhoven
- Meetings with the Cabinets of VP of the Commission and Commissioner for Values and Transparency. Vera Jourová and Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson
- Joined ePrivacy Consent Advisory Board

November
- Co-signed letter on the DSA
- Meeting on the NIS2 Directive with the Permanent Representations of Poland and Estonia to the EU
- General Meeting. Roundtable with representatives of the Internet technical community: Elena Flexida (ICANN), Chris Buckridge (RIPN) and Pinella Malaja (CAIRN), and Workshop on DSA and fundamental rights: Ruth Steinach (Index on Censorship), Joris van Hoboken (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Chris Buckridge (RIPE) and Paddy Leerssen (University of Amsterdam)
- Officers Meeting
- Committee meetings: Cybersecurity, Innovation & Growth, Data Protection, Intermediary Liability, Market and Services, International Affairs, Safer Internet

December
- DSA in Focus Event 5: Implementation, extra-territorial application and enforcement. Panellists: Michal Palka (Office of the Polish Prime Minister), Christian Dawson (IECoalition) and Malcolm Hutty (LINX)
- Webinar: UNODC Data Disclosure Framework
- Attended European Commission roundtable on e-evidence and the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention
25 Years: A History of EuroISPA

**EuroISPA’s beginnings**

**Nicholas Lansman,**
Founder of EuroISPA

“In 1996 there was a growing need for national organisations to come together at a European level to create a voice for Internet Service Providers. There was a united passion to protect the pioneering spirit of the sector and resist heavy-handed regulation which led to EuroISPA’s creation in 1997.”

**Jim Dixon,**
First President of EuroISPA

The first president was Jim Dixon (1942-2021), council member of ISPA UK and a member of EuroISPA’s nascent board. As a fierce defender of the Internet he was sceptical of bureaucrats, who had limited understanding of the technology, being able to regulate in a way that would not chill the innovation of the sector.

**Michael Roeter,**
Honorary Spokesperson of EuroISPA

“EuroISPA was approved as a reliable and very knowledgeable partner concerning all Internet matters but specifically in technical matters. During the past 25 years the Internet moved from a technical vision to a much more society-oriented medium and EuroISPA was always able to represent all views of the Internet we have today.”

**Forum & Observer Members**

Over the course of this time, EuroISPA has also welcomed Forum members (who act in an advisory capacity to the Council members, providing technical expertise) and Observer members (who participate in Committee and General Meetings).

**Observer Members**

- Moldovan Association (ATC)

**Forum Members**

- Amazon
- Cambium Network
- De-cix
- Google
- Meta
- Microsoft
- Seznam.cz
- Verizon

**Our Partners**

Throughout these 25 years EuroISPA has signed Memoranda of Understanding with the following organisations to formalise and deepen cooperation and mutual understanding.

- Asia & Pacific Internet Association (APIA)
- Indonesian Internet Service Provider Association (ISPA)
- Council of European National Top Level Domain Registries (CENTR)
- Latin America and Caribbean Federation for Internet and Electronic Commerce (ECOMLAC)
- Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association (HKISPA)
- The Association of Internet Hotline Providers in Europe (IN HOPE)
- Telecom Services Association Japan (TELESA)
- Internet Service Providers Association South Africa (ISP SA)
- United States Internet Service Provider Association (US ISPA)

**Children Protection**

EuroISPA will be actively participating in the discussions to review the 2011/3 Directive on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, the upcoming Regulation on the detection, reporting and removal of Child Sexual Abuse Material and the new Better Internet for Kids Strategy.

**Established in 1997**

- 1997: EuroISPA was established to represent all views of the Internet.
- 2000: The E-commerce Directive was agreed, ensuring ISPs were not held liable for third-party content.
- 2002: The Data Retention Directive was introduced in Europe.
- 2005: The Data Protection Directive (now GDPR) was introduced, regulating data protection in the EU.
- 2008: Copyright Directive was introduced, giving creators more rights over their digital content.
- 2010: Law Enforcement Directive was introduced, allowing authorities to access user data.
- 2015: Digital Services Act was introduced, regulating digital services.
- 2020: Children Protection was introduced.
- 2021: EuroISPA will be actively participating in the discussions to review the 2011/3 Directive on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.

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Our Association

EuroISPA is a members-led association representing the interests of Internet Services Providers across Europe. The activities of the association are supported by the Secretariat.

Officers
- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer

Members
- Council members appoint
- Members participate in

Committees
- Cybersecurity
- Safer Internet
- Innovation & Growth
- International Affairs
- Intermediary Liability
- Markets & Services
- Data Protection

EUroISPA Council

EUroISPA is governed by and for its members, through its Council. EUroISPA’s members are associations of Internet Services Providers (ISPs) across Europe, and each association appoints a representative to the Council. This body meets four times a year to formally discuss policy, matters of importance to the European Internet industry, and the administration of the Association. Council members participate in Committee meetings and nominate and elect the Officers.

Hotlines

Several of EUroISPA’s national member associations also have hotlines or content-signalling platforms as part of their membership, or even run their own hotlines. These hotline services play a crucial role in tackling illegal content online, including child sexual abuse material.

Forum

The EUroISPA Industry Forum is a structure which allows individual companies with a legitimate interest in the Internet industry to participate in EUroISPA’s activities, discussions and working groups. The Forum joins Committee meetings to discuss policy issues and provide technical expertise and insight where needed. The Industry Forum acts in a purely advisory capacity to the Council.

Observers

EUroISPA also welcomes Observers to its membership. While these associations do not vote on EUroISPA’s decisions, they participate regularly in the Committee Meetings and General Meetings, provide precious input to policy discussions, and have access to all the information the Council and Forum receive.
Our Members

CZ.NIC
“In an interconnected modern world, we see an urgent need to cooperate within the EU area. The impact of EU regulation on the functioning of our members is growing every year. That is why we value the cooperation within EuroISPA, which helps us to share information, and formulate and promote the interests of our members.”

FFTélécoms
“EuroISPA has been a key player in defending our interests in Europe. Indeed, EuroISPA has always been proactive with all stakeholders in the digital industry, from members of the European Parliament to other industrial organisations. Finally, EuroISPA provides a very valuable space for exchanges and comparisons at European level and between European countries.”

FiCom
“EuroISPA cooperation is very important for FiCom as most ICT legislation comes from the EU. Joining forces and sparring together internationally is an important support for national lobbying. EuroISPA is doing impressive and fruitful work in this area. Together we are stronger!”

ISPA BE
“Being a member of EurolSPA allows us to have insights into developments at the EU level. This is important as it will have consequences for the national level, be it transpositions or just even the types of debates that take place at the EU level. This allows us to plan for the future.”

ISPA UK
“As a founding member, EurolSPA membership provides ISPA UK with a voice in Brussels, advocating for the sector and informing us of developments on the ground. This is particularly important as it comes at a time where the UK’s voice and influence in Europe have undergone significant changes in recent years.”

ISPA AT
“As a member of EuroISPA we benefit substantially from gaining access to a vast array of information on ongoing legal and policy developments in Brussels. It allows us to bring in the views from our members early on and engage in discussions that will also become relevant at national level. We look forward to contributing to EuroISPA’s work next year along with the other members.”
Every two years, the Council members appoint a group of Officers composed of a President, a Vice-President, and a Treasurer. If more than one person is nominated for any of these roles, multiple people can hold the position at the same time. The Officers are tasked with ensuring the continued functioning of the Association and are supported in the day-to-day activity of the Association by the Secretariat, based in Brussels.

The Council is divided into Committees, each of which steers the policy and advocacy work of the Association. The Committees cover a wider variety of dossiers and are chaired by designated members of EuroISPA’s Council.

Committees

- **Cybersecurity Committee**
  Chaired by Andreas Gruber (ISPA Austria)

- **Data Protection Committee**
  Chaired by Oliver Süme (eco)

- **Innovation and Growth Committee**
  Chaired by Innocenzo Genna (AIIP)

- **Intermediary Liability Committee**
  Chaired by Malcolm Hutty (LINX)

- **International Affairs Committee**
  Chaired by Malcolm Hutty (LINX)

- **Markets and Services Committee**
  Chaired by Alexandra Laffitte (FFTélécoms)

- **Safer Internet Committee**
  Chaired by Asko Metsola (FiCom)

### News

#### New Members

In 2021, EuroISPA welcomed two new members to the Association.

- **Cambium Networks**

  In July 2021, EuroISPA welcomed a new Forum member, Cambium Networks, an infrastructure provider which offers wireless connectivity to people worldwide.

- **amsix**

  In October 2021, we welcomed a new Council member, the Amsterdam Internet Exchange (AMS-IX), a member-based association that operates interconnection platforms around the world.

### Tools

In light of the modernised version of the Standard Contractual clauses (SCCs) issued by the European Commission in June 2021, EuroISPA made a mySCCcreator tool available on its website. The new SCCs impact the transfer of data from data controllers/processors in the EU/EEA to data controllers/processors outside the EU/EEA.

The mySCCcreator tool, offered by Fieldfisher, allows users to assemble the matching contract template with the relevant clauses in each case. After answering a short questionnaire, users can download the final template in the form of a Microsoft Word document.

The mySCCcreator tool is available on EuroISPA’s website: https://www.euroispa.org/myscccreator/
Events

EuroISPA organises a variety of events for its members throughout the year. As in 2020, the events of 2021 took place virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Every year, Council members are invited to four General Meetings. Members gather from across Europe for these meetings to discuss EU and national law and regulation, share developments in the sector, and establish EuroISPA’s policy strategy and objectives. For each General Meeting, EuroISPA invites guest speakers to provide members with insights into the wider Internet industry debates.

- **General Meetings**
  - **March**
    - **Andreas Weiss** of ECO on the GAIA-X project
  - **June**
    - **Denton Howard** of INHOPE on tackling CSAM
    - **Michel Rao** of the French government on the French Cloud Strategy
  - **September**
    - **Alexandra Laffitte**, President of EuroISPA, spoke at the Moldova ICT Summit in September 2021, at the invitation of ATIC. During her presentation, Alexandra highlighted key points including the need to keep the Internet as open and innovative as possible, uphold fundamental rights, avoid Internet fragmentation, protect users, and build future-proof legislative frameworks.
  - **November**
    - Guest speaker roundtable with representatives of the Internet technical community:
      - **Elena Plexida** (ICANN)
      - **Chris Buckridge** (RIPE)
      - **Polina Malaja** (CENTR)
      - Workshop on DSA and fundamental rights:
      - **Ruth Smeeth** (Index on Censorship)
      - **Joris van Hoboken** (Vrije Universiteit Brussels)
      - **Paddy Leerssen** (University of Amsterdam)

- **Webinars for Members**
  - **June**
    - **EuropISA and ATIC** on EU Policy trends.
    - **Cloudflare** on DNS-over-HTTPS (DOH).
  - **October**
    - **Cambium Networks** on Dynamic Shared Access Spectrum in Europe.

- **Participation in External Events**
  - **September**
    - **Alexandra Laffitte**, President of EuroISPA, spoke at the Moldova ICT Summit in September 2021, at the invitation of ATIC. During her presentation, Alexandra highlighted key points including the need to keep the Internet as open and innovative as possible, uphold fundamental rights, avoid Internet fragmentation, protect users, and build future-proof legislative frameworks.
Officers

Alexandra Laffitte  
President

Mariano Guillén  
Policy Executive

Isabelle De Vinck  
Head of Secretariat

Mauro Sanna  
Policy Executive

Andrea D’Incecco  
Head of Policy

Thomas Bihlmayer  
Treasurer

Innocenzo Genna  
Vice-President

Secretariat

Isabelle De Vinck  
Head of Secretariat

Andrea D’Incecco  
Head of Policy

Mauro Sanna  
Policy Executive

Mariano Guillén  
Policy Executive

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