

CYCLE OF CONFERENCES ON  
INTERNET, DEMOCRACY AND  
GOVERNANCE

## Net Neutrality in Europe

27 FEBRUARY 2012  
14.00 pm - 6.30 pm  
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT

Conference organized by  
**Prof. A. Strowel (FUSL, ULg)**  
and hosted by **M. Gallo**  
(Member of the European  
Parliament).  
With the collaboration of **CIPi**  
and **PreCOM**, FUSL

### Practical information

#### Registration

Registration is available online. You will receive a confirmation email and all the additional practical information related to this event at the European Parliament (additional access map, security rules, documentation).

**Deadline for registration:  
February 20, 2012.**

For security reasons no registration can be accepted after the deadline.

[Register online](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION :  
<http://www.iee-fusl.eu>

### Presentation

For the first conference in this series of events on **Internet, Democracy and Governance**, we focus on the issue of **Internet neutrality**.

Net neutrality is a principle, or an ideal, according to which a public network should treat all content, sites, platforms, modes of communication, etc. equally so as to prevent any restriction in the communication process. This principle conflicts with the goal of efficiency, as basic management of the network is needed to reduce security risks and to limit spam. Further, experts consider that traffic discrimination is needed to improve the quality of services in the context of limited bandwidth. Such discrimination could, however, be anticompetitive if an operator accelerates the traffic of some online providers and slows down that of others. Network operators also claim that the huge investments required for next-generation infrastructure should be shared with the large online service providers who generate the most traffic. In turn, some content owners would like the traffic to illicit sites to be slowed down. On the other side, activist groups claim that any traffic management is incompatible with freedom of information. Torn between these opposing claims and objectives, the ideal of net neutrality is not easy to implement.

This conference is timely as it coincides

## Fees

- **Members of the EU institutions - free**
- **Students - free (upon presentation of student card)**

- **Others - 60 EUR**  
Invoice upon request.

Bank account for payment:  
IBAN : BE 57 3100 4670  
0435  
BIC/SWIFT : BBRUBEBB  
ING (Agence Centre) Rue du  
Trône 14-16 B-1000  
BRUSSELS

Please use the following  
communication for your  
payment: *CIPi-EP  
conference/CF549*.

## Contact

Ms S. Sadeghzadeh  
Email: [cipi@fusl.ac.be](mailto:cipi@fusl.ac.be)

## Access map

Download [access map](#) (PDF)

## Online announcement & discussion

See [IPdigIT.eu](http://IPdigIT.eu)

with the net neutrality debate currently taking place in the EU. For example, on April 19, 2011, the Commission published a Communication titled "The open internet and net neutrality". Thereafter, on November 17, 2011, the European Parliament adopted a resolution which "draws attention to the serious risks of departing from network neutrality". The Guidelines on net neutrality and transparency of the BEREC (Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications) are expected for February 2012.

## Programme

- **14.00 - Introduction**
  - 14.00 A. Strowel (Prof. FUSL, ULg)
  - 14.10 M. Gallo, MEP
- **14.20 - Keynote speech**  
***Internet : how technology can help democracy – and creates new risks?***
  - B. Salomon (Executive director, [accessnow.org](http://accessnow.org))
- **14.40 - Technical, economic and regulatory aspects**
  - R. Laroy (Belgian Institute for Telecommunications): *network management*
  - P. Defraigne (Director, Cullen): *economic aspects*
  - P. Larouche (Prof. Tilburg University): *comparison US-EU and competition law*
  - J. Sluijs (Researcher, Tilburg University): *freedom of expression*
- **15.45 - Q & A**
- **16.00 - Cocktail**
- **16.30 - Panel discussion with policymakers and stakeholders**
  - Ph. Distler (tbc) (ARCEP)
  - Representative of DG InfSo, Commission
  - F. Donck (Internet Society)
  - V. Hennes (Orange)
  - H. Krohg (Telenor)
  - J.-J. Sahel (Skype)
  - C. Selli (AT&T)
  - Representative of BBC
- **18.05 - Q & A**
- **18.20 - Conclusions by MEP Ms Niebler or Mr Juvin**  
***Net neutrality: what role for the EU authorities?***