

# Internet Governance BAROMETER (MAY 2017)

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

## Global IG architecture



Microsoft CEO Brad Smith has renewed the call for a Digital Geneva Convention in response to the WannaCry ransomware cyber-attack. [Governments should treat the attack as a wake-up call.](#)

The UK's Conservative Party plans to considerably increase Internet regulation, and to force Internet companies to abide by new rules to ensure a safer online environment.

The G7 has put pressure on Internet companies and Internet service providers to increase their efforts to remove extremist content.

## Sustainable development



The second Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the SDGs (15–16 May, New York) considered ways STI can contribute to realising six of the SDGs, including goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure).  During the High-level Event on SDG Innovation (17 May), technologists from Silicon Valley presented ideas for achieving the SDGs, and urged UN Member States to foster a culture of risk-taking.

## Security



The WannaCry ransomware cyber-attack  infected thousands of devices worldwide. The malicious software encrypted data on the infected devices and demanded a ransom of USD\$300 in bitcoins in order to release the data.

The US President has signed a cybersecurity executive order aimed at strengthening the security of federal government institutions.

Microsoft's latest policy paper, Cybersecurity Policy for the Internet of Things,  notes that securing the IoT is an urgent matter that requires collaboration across borders, sectors, and organisations.

## E-commerce and Internet economy



The Advocate General of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has opined that Uber should be classified as a transportation service.

Alphabet, Google's parent company, has agreed to pay €306 million to settle a year-long tax dispute with the Italian government for the period 2002–2015.

In a report on a European agenda for the collaborative economy, the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee of the European Parliament has invited the European Commission and EU member states to address regulatory grey areas.

## Digital rights



The European Commission (EC) has fined Facebook €110 million for giving misleading or incorrect information during the Commission's 2014 vetting of its deal to acquire the messaging service WhatsApp.

The Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés (CNIL), France's data protection watchdog, has fined Facebook €150 000 for violating French data protection rules.

Turkey has blocked Wikipedia after passing a law that bans access to websites that are considered obscene or a threat to national security.  China will launch an online encyclopaedia, in 2018, with content created by thousands of scholars from state-run universities.

A new parliamentary report by the UK Home Affairs Select Committee has found that social media companies are 'shamefully far' from tackling illegal content.

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## Jurisdiction and legal issues



A Viennese Court of Appeals has ruled that Facebook must remove posts deemed to be hate speech.  Merely blocking the posts in Austria will not be enough: Facebook must delete the posts across the platform.

The European Parliament has voted in favour of new data portability rules that will enable users to enjoy services they are subscribed to even when they travel to other countries in the EU.

## Infrastructure



The Empowered Community (EC) created within ICANN as a consequence of the IANA stewardship transition, will undergo its first test. Following approval by the ICANN Board of Amendments to the organisation's Fundamental Bylaws, the EC is now called to consider and approve these amendments before they can go into effects.

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the evaluation and revision of the Regulations for .eu, the country code top-level domain (TLD) for the EU.  EURid, the registry for .eu and .europa has announced that WIPO will become an alternative dispute resolution provider for the two TLDs starting June.

The RIPE Network Coordination Centre has launched a programme aimed to assist governments accurately calculate the amount of addresses they need.

## Net neutrality



The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has voted to start a process that could lead to a roll back of the net neutrality rules it had adopted in 2015.  The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has upheld the FCC's net neutrality rules in a case brought against the rules by representatives of the US broadband industry.  The court affirmed that the FCC had ample authority to reclassify ISPs as common carriers, and dismissed the argument that the FCC's policy infringes upon the free speech rights of broadband companies.

## New technologies (IoT, AI, etc.)



Researchers have discovered a new Internet of Things (IoT) botnet, called Persirai, which targets over 1 000 camera models.

The Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, founded in September 2016 by Amazon, DeepMind/Google, Facebook, IBM, and Microsoft, with the aim of developing guidelines for best practices, has announced an expansion with new partners, as well as the launch of a series of initiatives.  New initiatives include the creation of topic-specific and sector-specific working groups to research and formulate suggestions for best practices, and the creation of a Civil Society Fellowship programme aimed at assisting non-profits and NGOs to collaborate on topics in AI and society.

An Australian parliamentary committee has called for stronger regulations for drones.