

Internet Governance BAROMETER (APRIL 2018)

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

Global IG Architecture



Thirty-four technology companies – including Cisco, Dell, Facebook, Microsoft, Oracle, and Telefonica – have signed a Cybersecurity Tech Accord, committing to protect civilians online, and to improve the security, stability, and resilience of cyberspace.

Among the outcomes of the Commonwealth Summit, held in April in London, is the Commonwealth Cyber Declaration. The Commonwealth reflects the

diversity of global community including, small and big countries, developed and developing countries. The declaration shows the importance of the 'UN trinity' - security, development, and human rights. It focuses heavily on cybersecurity, followed by development and economy, and human rights aspects. It anchors cyber policy in national environments while introducing some new conceptual for international cooperation such as voluntary review of national cybersecurity.

Sustainable development



Denmark joined the World Bank's *Digital Development Partnership*, an initiative focused on assisting developing countries in taking advantage of digitalisation on their path to sustainable development.

Security



The European Commission is proposing new rules to facilitate cross-border access of law enforcement agencies to electronic evidence needed for investigation, prosecution and conviction of criminals and terrorists.

The US Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the UK's National Cyber Security Centre released a technical alert warning against Russian state-sponsored cyber actors targeting network infrastructure devices. Australian authorities also joined the US and the UK in these allegations.

Unidentified hackers have attacked networks in Iran, Russia, and several other countries, disabling equipment of Internet service providers (ISPs) and data centres.

The UK National Cyber Security Centre has elaborated a new cyber incident framework aimed at harmonising the description and prioritisation of cyber threats.

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E-commerce and Internet economy



The E-commerce Week 2018, [organised](#) by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), brought together stakeholders to discuss the development opportunities and challenges associated with the evolving digital economy.

Several members of the World Trade Organization have put forward proposals to advance exploratory work on trade-related aspects of e-commerce [and](#) identify possible elements that could form the basis of a future agreement on e-commerce.

Twenty-two European countries concluded a European Blockchain Partnership, [to](#) share expertise in blockchain-related technical and regulatory fields. Vietnam is planning to tighten the control of cryptocurrency activities, following reports of a massive Initial Coin Offering fraud. [In](#) South Korea, 14 crypto exchanges have committed to a set of rules to improve the transparency of cryptocurrency-related activities. [Antigua and Barbuda](#) is

set to launch its first cryptocurrency exchange, [and](#) a draft legal framework is to be introduced in the parliament. The Caribbean Tourism Organization intends to introduce the use of cryptocurrency for 'more efficient payment processes for tourism products and services'. [E](#)

Uber lost another case in front of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), as the court ruled that EU member states 'may prohibit and punish the illegal exercise of a transport activity such as UberPop'. The ruling reiterated a previous decision from December 2017 which found that UberPop was a transportation service.

A judge in Philadelphia, USA ruled that drivers working under the UberBlack limousine service are independent contractors. In Egypt, the Cairo Court of urgent matters reversed a decision taken in March by an administrative court to suspend the licenses of Uber and competitor Careem, [in](#) a case brought forward by taxi drivers.

Digital rights



A court in Moscow, Russia approved a request from the country's telecommunications regulator, Roskomnadzor, to block access to Telegram services, due to the company's repeated refusal to hand over encryption keys. [Roskomnadzor](#) is said to have blocked a significant number of Internet protocol addresses, arguing they were used by Telegram to bypass the block. [E](#)

The European Commission has launched a *New Deal for Consumers*, including a set of legislative proposals to strengthen consumer rights online. [E](#)

Jurisdiction and legal issues



In a move described by some as an attempt to reduce its exposure to the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Facebook plans to make changes to its terms of service, so that users from Africa, Asia, Australia, and Latin America will no longer be subject to agreements with the company's international headquarters in Ireland. [E](#)

In the UK, a judge has ruled in favour of the right to be forgotten, by ordering Google to de-list from its search results articles about years-old crimes committed by a businessman. [E](#)

Malaysia's parliament passed a law against fake news, introducing fines of up to USD\$ 123 000 and a maximum of six years in jail for offenders. The law will also apply to foreigners if the offense affects Malaysia or its citizens. [E](#)

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Infrastructure



same relevance

Several countries on the West African coast were affected by a subsea cable cut near Noukachott in Mauritania. The most affected was Mauritania, which lost all Internet connection for nearly two days.[↗](#)

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and EU data protection authorities continue their exchanges over ICANN's proposed

model to ensure that domain name registries and registrars are in compliance with ICANN policies and the GDPR. While the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party asked the organisation to continue work on several provisions of the proposed model,[↗](#) ICANN CEO invited the group to consider 'the balance between the important right to privacy and the need for information'.[↗](#)

Net neutrality



same relevance

States in the USA continue to pass their own net neutrality rules, following the December 2017 decision of the Federal Communications Commission to repeal the federal rules. The Oregon Governor signed a net neutrality bill that prohibits public bodies from contracting with ISPs that engage in network management

activities based on paid prioritisation, content blocking, or other forms of discrimination.[↗](#) In California, a strict net neutrality bill is close to becoming law,[↗](#) despite objections from telecom providers.[↗](#)

New technologies (IoT, AI, etc.)



increasing relevance

Twenty-five European countries adopted a Declaration of Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence (AI), committing to work together on addressing social, economic, legal, and ethical concerns related to the evolution and use of AI.[↗](#)

In an open letter to the European Commission, over 150 experts raised concerns over the idea of granting robots a legal status, which they described as inappropriate from both an ethical and legal perspective.[↗](#)

Authorities in California, USA, can now issue permits for fully autonomous vehicles to be tested on public roads, as the applicable regulations entered into force on 2 April.[↗](#) In a move to keep pace with other countries which support the development of self-driving vehicles, China has introduced nation-wide guidelines for the testing of such vehicles on public roads.[↗](#)

At its first meeting in 2018, the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) discussed the characteristics of LAWS, the necessary degree of meaningful human control in their development and use, and different policy options for tackling the risks associated with such systems.[↗](#)

The Select Committee on AI in the UK House of Lords published a report with recommendations aimed to support the UK government and other stakeholders in 'realising the potential of AI for society and economy, and to protect society from potential threats and risks'.

Microsoft announced plans to invest USD\$ 5 billion in research and innovation in the Internet of things (IoT) in the next five years.[↗](#)