

EU Parliament protected Net Neutrality

No two – tiered internet within the European Union

The European-parliament realized the interdependency between democracy and net neutrality. This is a significant decision for Internet–Users who now may be sure that all offers within the net will be equally served. The Internet Service Providers are not allowed to prepare different services to their customers. Special cases might be possible for large amount of data e.g. medical services but this shall not interfere with the normal internet exchange. Reduction or Blocking of particular lines and services are only on specific occasion conceded and this has to be explicable declared by the ISP. Every internet packet has to be handled equal independent of sender, receiver, service or tariff. And this reminds us back to the roots of the internet with its philosophy of three principles;

Internet´s 3 Principles:

The “**best of effort**” means guarantees that every internet-provider will do his best to let run the data flow as efficiently as possible.

The “**innovation without permission**” means every participant is able to be creative without the explicit permission of someone else or any bureaucratic organization.

The “**end to end**” principle concludes that every netcell is able to communicate with every other netcell.

Those three principles are together understandable as netneutrality and are the leading principles for an open and free internet. This for the users positive voting of the EU-parliament was also prepared up till the last days by more than 170.000 faxes, emails and calls of internet-users to the MEPs, also from CECUA, the Confederation of European Computer Users Associations through CecuaMedia, CECUA´s Media and Public Relations. CECUA has been fighting for user interests at the Commission in Brussels since May 27 1982.

ETNO the European organization of telecommunication provider was certainly not amused about the parliament´s decision and criticized that now will there be a reduction of better and innovative services. Therefore it is important that the definition for “specialized services” needs to be clarified so that they are running different from the open and free internet.

So this is not the end of the strain. Getting to the final decision the EU will need month and need also the agreement of all EU Countries of which up till now only the Netherlands and Slovenia already have taken netneutrality in their constitutional law.

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