



- Internal motion
- Resolution
- Amendment

Title: **The European Commission is threatening the open and neutral internet**

Point of the agenda: 8c

Proposed by: ÖH

Seconded by: fzs, NSO, CSC, LSVb, ISO

Text:

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2 **The European Commission is threatening the open and**
3 **neutral internet**

4 *The European Students' Union believes that an open and*
5 *neutral internet is essential for every democratic society.*
6 *This fundamental principle of the internet is threatened by*
7 *the European Commission's regulatory proposal for a*
8 *Connected Continent, which is aiming at the digital single*
9 *market.*

10 The regulation legalises "specialised services" that allow
11 commercially motivated preferential treatment for big
12 internet companies (mostly based in the USA) who can
13 afford to buy the fast-access connection-lane in a two-tier
14 internet system. These specialised services together with an
15 "assured service quality" would erode the success formula of
16 the internet's innovative capacity, its' emancipatory value
17 for democracies and the educational benefits of the free and
18 equal flow of information in the 21st century. Nowadays a



19 teacher needs to rely on every student's capacity to access
20 information on his or her point of internet access that is
21 open, uncensored and equal.

22 The European Commissioner Neelie Kroes started her term
23 in 2010 with an announcement to safeguard net neutrality
24 and not allow a commercially motivated preferential
25 treatment of the internet. Now, as her term comes to an
26 end, she is proposing exactly the opposite and follows the
27 one-sided wishes of the telecommunications industry. The
28 impact of this new regulation on the free flow of information
29 would be devastating and irreversible. Introducing
30 preferential treatment would also impact students on many
31 levels, since many student representatives cannot afford to
32 pay for a fast-lane connection or compete with big
33 companies.

34 Also, this proposal stands in conflict with the Commission's
35 own communication on 'Opening up Education' (COM(2013)
36 654), which states that open online resources on educational
37 materials should be facilitated and Member States are
38 encouraged to connect every school and individual
39 classrooms.

40 Therefore, the European Students' Union strongly stands
41 against these new regulations and will raise a discussion on
42 this in the European Parliament. ESU calls for MEPs to not
43 accept the Commission's regulation proposal as it is and
44 amend it to ensure that the principle of net neutrality will be
45 respected on the basis of the good examples of the Dutch
46 and Slovenian net neutrality laws.

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48 **Further information:**

49 https://unsernetz.at/files/Handout_EUVO.pdf (german)

50 <https://unsernetz.at/dokumente/> (german)

BM65 – ZAGREB



51 [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-779_en.htm)
52 [779_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-779_en.htm) (english)

53 [http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/doc/openingcom_en.](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/doc/openingcom_en.pdf)
54 [pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/doc/openingcom_en.pdf)

55 [http://www.edri.org/edrigram/number11.17/net-](http://www.edri.org/edrigram/number11.17/net-neutrality-ec-regulation)
56 [neutrality-ec-regulation](http://www.edri.org/edrigram/number11.17/net-neutrality-ec-regulation) (english)

57 http://www.edri.org/files/paper08_netneutrality.pdf
58 (english)

59 [http://www.edri.org/edrigram/number11.22/edps-lot-of-](http://www.edri.org/edrigram/number11.22/edps-lot-of-work)
60 [work](http://www.edri.org/edrigram/number11.22/edps-lot-of-work) (english)

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Passed: **YES** **NO**

(for use of board meeting chair only!)