



- 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](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](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!)