

# IS “SECURITY” THE BIGGEST THREAT FOR SECURITY?

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# The Open Internet a Digital Single Market

To what do we owe the value of the Internet?

Its value is its openness.

An open space without barriers, providing:

- Free speech and democracy
- Transparency
- Innovation and competition

This structure is endangered by the current tendency to experiment with regulation of the Internet, creating barriers into this open space.

# What threatens the open internet?

Step by step we slide from a meaningless rhetoric of “self-regulation” to a practice of “ devolved law enforcement”, creating a risk both for the online economy and fundamental rights.

1. Experimenting the privatisation of the Internet regulation
2. Planning for stagnation in an ever changing environment
3. Tinkering with the structure of the Internet

# 1. Self-Regulation

“Self-Regulation” or privatisation of Internet regulation: the unquestioned “solution” to all internet security problems.

- The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) – creation of obligations for Internet intermediaries to filter and police the Internet creating global dangers for online commerce and fundamental rights
- The European Commission’s approach  
e.g. filtering of peer-to-peer traffic by access providers, blocking of consumers accused of involvement in the trade in counterfeit goods, protection of children in social networks, etc...

## 2. Planning for stagnation in an ever changing environment

- The relationship between Internet intermediaries and consumers is changing
- Intermediaries' priorities are evolving and their role in the public policy becomes more and more significant
- The net neutrality will be affected

### 3. Experimenting with the structure of the Internet

The proliferation of regulations on **domain names**:

- The American initiative: Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act (COICA)
- The individual European registries - e.g. Nominet in the United Kingdom

Will the regulation of **IP addresses** be the next step?

- EU-US project on revocation of IP addresses and domain names

# The risks at stake

- The digital environment is less and less clear and certain, and the rule of law is being abandoned
- Barriers are created and we are moving towards unpredictable Internet censorship and barriers to trade
- The main risk is to diminish fundamental rights and business opportunities

# Avoiding the fragmentation of the Digital Single Market

- Clear, minimal and predictable regulation is needed to protect the open internet
- Keep in mind what need to be protected:
  - Democracy and free speech
  - Transparency
  - Innovation and competition

The Internet is too valuable to destroy with experimentation!



Thank you for your attention!

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