



# Newsletter Glawcal

Issue 19, 2014

## ***Focus on: Internet Governance***

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## Internet Governance

### A SHOWER OF CRITICS AND NEW CHALLENGES MARKED THE UN INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

Last edition of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) hosted in Istanbul has been the target of harsh critics and it ended with demanding challenges to be faced. For the first time the United Nations conference has been followed by an alternative convention, the Internet Ungovernance Forum, aimed at casting light on more vital problems not taken into enough consideration in the official UN initiative.

Ungovernance organizers wanted to get the right attention on topics neglected at IGF: censorship and freedom of speech; surveillance and privacy; excessive commercialization and super-monopolies as well as protective, prohibitionist and conservative governance approaches and the list goes on. Engaged by these issues, Edward Snowden and Julian Assange participated with impactful statements: highlighting the Turkish situation, where they advocated how the dangers of censorship outbalance the supposed benefits that governments believe to achieve with these measures.



*The main theme of the ninth IGF is agreed as "Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multi-stakeholder Internet Governance."*

Despite the harshest critics coming from this parallel event, many participants at the IGF decided to raise their voice to stimulate an inner change: the European Union commissioner Neelie Kroes, supported by United Kingdom Foreign Minister Ed Vaizey, made a call to action; while Macedonian Minister for Information Society and Administration Ivo Ivanovski stressed the absence of fundamental ministers such as those related to education, science and culture.



## *Internet Governance*

It is important to consider that the mandate of the IGF organization is close to the end and it is time to take stock of this initiative born under conditions which are totally different compared to the current situation. On the one hand, the trend is directing towards new approaches to the issues, like the NetMundial initiative; on the other hand IGF supporters emphasize the tangible outcomes achieved during this edition, such as the best practice papers concerning multi-stakeholders mechanisms, spam, computer emergency response and online child protection.

In conclusion, while the ungovernance activists are satisfied with the impact of their conference, many think that the same initiative is necessary at the NetMundial as well.

**IGF** Internet  
Governance  
Forum



## Internet Governance

### UNITED NATIONS GIVE GUIDANCE TO IMPROVE CHILDREN ONLINE PROTECTION



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agencies cooperated with the Child Online Protection Initiative in order to develop new guidelines enhancing children online safety. According to Hamadoun I. Touré - Secretary-General of the UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - on the one hand online communication have revolutionized the world offering terrific opportunities, while on the other hand, they made room for risks that were once unknown.

The document entitled "Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection", illustrates how information and communication technologies (ICT) can play a fundamental role in children online protection and how to empower responsible digital rights. Furthermore, it specifically targets internet tech companies - some of which, like Facebook, have also contributed to draft this common framework - to play their part.

These Guidelines aim to stimulate an widespread response to these new forms of children threat - engaging stakeholders, public and private sector, civil society up to parents and educators - and it intends to expand the reach of the digital revolution to children that couldn't join it.



*The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), and partners of the Child Online Protection Initiative, have released an updated guidelines to strengthen online protection for children.*



## Internet Governance

### PROPOSALS FOR AN INTERNET BILL OF RIGHTS

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**I**taly is promoting a draft for internet governance which aims to be the first step towards a European internet bill of rights. The government has created an ad hoc committee convening the major experts in the field; and the esteemed jurist Stefano Rodotà is leading the efforts in order to submit and comment the first proposals by the end of September.

In October a complete draft is meant to be presented by the ambitious committee at the European inter-parliamentary meeting on fundamental rights and to be submitted on the online platform Civi.ci in order to receive Italian citizens suggestions.

The work that the committee will face is broad, complex and includes very hot topics such as: net neutrality; the inclusion of internet access among universal rights; freedom of information; finding a satisfying balance among transparency, the rule of law and privacy, and digital literacy.

Around the world, there are many countries that are supporting internet governance initiatives: the active debate of whether or not regulating the internet seems strict which leads towards legal definitions of user's freedoms and obligations; and Rodotà reminds those in opposition that the online world is full of binding "terms of services" that are already ruling our lives, therefore now the right question is who runs the internet.

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## *Internet Governance*

As far as the Italian project is concerned, many are worried that a few months will not be enough to draft a document that goes beyond a mere and generic declaration of principles. To avoid this situation, according to Juan Carlos de Martin - committee member and co-director of the Nexa Center for Internet & Society at the Politecnico of Turin - it would be useful to start realizing a concrete and regulatory framework on impactful issues such as e-surveillance and data retention.



*“A bill of rights should be created to govern the Internet.”*

## *gLAWcal activities in 2014*

### *Conferences and Workshops*

- As part of the Research Project on “**Liberalism In Between Europe And China**” - LIBEAC - **Assessing the Socio-Cultural and Politico-Legal Dimensions of the Differences in Terms of Interpretation and Enforcement of Economic, Social and Environmental Rights in Europe and China**”, 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission, the following events have been organized:
- Sergio Scanu, Senior Associate - Chiomenti Law Firm, Beijing Branch, “**E-Commerce, Social Networks and Applications: Smart Technologies and the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights**”, held at Peking University, School of Government, Center for European Studies on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Introduction and comments from Prof. Paolo Davide Farah (University Institute of European Studies, IUSE, Turin, Italy). The event is organized by gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development (United Kingdom) in collaboration with the following beneficiaries and partner institutions of the European Union Research Executive Agency IRSES Project “Liberalism in Between Europe And China” (LIBEAC) coordinated by Aix-Marseille University (CEPERC): University Institute of European Studies (IUSE) in Turin, Italy and the University of Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy Peking University, School of Government, Center for European Studies (China). Work-package 2 & 4.

**Leaflet:** <http://iuse.it/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/2014-07-30-Sergio-Scanu-EComerce-IPR.pdf>



## *gLAWcal activities in 2014*

### *Conferences and Workshops*



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- Lorenzo Riccardi, Associate at RSA, Leading Tax and Corporate Advisory Firm assisting Companies, Multinational Groups and Institutions in Asian Region and Far East, “**Taxation in China**”, held at Peking University, School of Government, Center for European Studies on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014. Introduction and comments from Prof. Paolo Davide Farah (University Institute of European Studies, IUSE, Turin, Italy). The event is organized by gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development (United Kingdom) in collaboration with the following beneficiaries and partner institutions of the European Union Research Executive Agency IRSES Project “Liberalism in Between Europe And China” (LIBEAC) coordinated by Aix-Marseille University (CEPERC): University Institute of European Studies (IUSE) in Turin, Italy and the University of Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy Peking University, School of Government, Center for European Studies (China). Work-package 2 & 4.

**Leaflet:** <http://iuse.it/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/2014-07-31-Lorenzo-Riccardi-taxation-China.pdf>

**Extract of the Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyA3WM2dNUg>



## *gLAWcal activities in 2014*

### *Conferences and Workshops*



This Special Issue of the Newsletter of gLAWcal with focus on: “**Internet Governance**” has been realized by gLAWcal—Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development in collaboration with the University Institute of European Studies (IUSE) in Turin, Italy and the University of Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy which are both beneficiaries of the European Union Research Executive Agency IRSES Project “**Liberalism in Between Europe And China**” (LIBEAC) coordinated by Aix-Marseille University. This work has been realized in the framework of Workpackage 4. For any information about the LIBEAC project and its objectives, please address your queries by email to: [research@glawcal.org.uk](mailto:research@glawcal.org.uk)

## GLAWCAL

### Global Law Initiatives for sustainable Development

#### WHO are We

gLAWcal is an independent non-profit research organization (think tank) that aims at providing a new focus on issues related to economic law, globalization and development, namely the relationship between international economy and trade, with special attention to a number of non-trade-related values and concerns.

Through research and policy analysis, gLAWcal sheds a new light on issues such as good governance, human rights, right to water, rights to food, social, economic and cultural rights, labour rights, access to knowledge, public health, social welfare, consumer interests and animal welfare, climate change, energy, environmental protection and sustainable development, product safety, food safety and security.

All these values are directly affected by the global expansion of world trade and should be upheld to balance the excesses of globalization.

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