

## **PRESS KIT**

### ***LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN INTERNET COREGULATION NETWORK***

**World Summit on the Information Society  
Geneva**

**For further editorial information, contact :**

Forum des droits sur l'internet  
Corinne Muller, communication manager  
33 (0)1 44 01 38 00  
[c.muller@foruminternet.org](mailto:c.muller@foruminternet.org)

# **Summary**

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III. Network's methodology

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## **I. The coregulation approach**

International by definition, **Internet is a complex space**, with extremely diverse players : states, private companies and civil society. Its evolution seems often unpredictable, following technological breakthroughs and usage changes. It has become necessary to work out a new way to generate rules in this changing environment.

### **Coregulation, a new process of elaborating rules in the internet space**

Coregulation is based upon the fact that the answer to this challenge cannot only be based on state regulation : on the internet, State regulation is sometimes overtaken by its limited geographical boundaries and its own efficiency. In fact, **States, private companies and civil society share responsibility in building the rules**, the challenge being now to determine how to articulate specific role of each participant.

Promoting **a multi- stakeholder approach**, coregulation, aims at organizing a cooperation on rights and usage issues between all players.

Through this cooperation process, the players have the opportunity to **reach a consensus point** on each subject, facilitating the respect of the adopted rules. It also allows to implement aside of the state regulation (rules, laws, international agreements) new means coming from self regulation like best practices, technical means, efficient networks to share information, etc.

This process does not aim at discrediting States intervention.

States remain the preferred players as they are the only entities able to decide and enforce public rules.

### **The necessity of a multi-stakeholder approach is gaining widespread acceptance :**

The white paper on European governance published by the European Commission in July 2001 contains a set of recommendations on how to enhance democracy in Europe and increase the legitimacy of the institutions. It mentions that the Commission will consider the use of coregulation under certain conditions.

The European Council's recent declaration on Freedom of communication on the internet adopted on May 28, 2003 is urging all members States to encourage self or coregulation as regards internet content.

Moreover, the World Summit on the Information Society draft Declaration of principles calls for new forms of partnerships between governments, private sector and civil society.

## **II. The objectives of the European internet coregulation network**

### **A network to act at the European level**

Europe shares an inheritance of values that can usefully feed or guide the debate on information society. A European identity does exist, for example in terms of respect for privacy or child protection.

Moreover, Europe has the experience of building harmonization from diversified cultures. Taking advantage of this asset, the European Union has a dialogue role to play in the international sphere.

Lastly, as many international institutions, Europe has to answer to the growing need for participation to the decision-making process expressed by the players. An open process of cooperation on the rules can fulfil this goal.

The World Summit for Information Society has determined that one of its main political objectives is to associate civil society and private companies to the state deliberations. In this context, it is particularly interesting to illustrate the potential of such partnerships with a concrete initiative. The European coregulation network is an illustration of such an association. It will usefully organize the debate on the key internet issues at European level.

### **The European internet coregulation network has 4 objectives :**

- **Build a resource and expertise network on internet legal issues** at the European level.  
Thanks to the network, members will be able to share experiences, good practices and knowledge.
- **Organize public debates with all stakeholders** (representatives of States, private companies and the civil society) at the European level on the key right and usage internet issues (such as spam, child protection, intellectual property rights, etc.).
- **Feed the European institutions with proposals** on the subjects of common interests.
- **Be prepared to help in the WSIS follow-up process**  
The network will position its works in the perspective of the Tunis Summit to take place in November 2005.

### **III. Network's methodology**

Flexible, decentralized, evolving, the network is very similar to the internet in its way of functioning.

#### **A decentralized network**

In this peer network, all organizations will be associated at the same level, without any hierarchy between them.

#### **Flexibility, a core concept**

This network will operate in a very flexible way. For some members, the network will essentially be a resource centre, allowing them to gather information, to be in touch with other members. For others, it will facilitate cooperation at an European level on subjects of common interests, feeding the Commission with proposals.

Density and configuration of the network will vary according to the demands of its members and also to the issues. The working groups will be created with the interested members and will publish recommendations accordingly.

#### **Openness**

The network is built as an open structure, as regards new members willing to join, or non members it wants to work with. Other organizations in other European countries are welcome to participate in this new process. The network also aims at building a structured dialogue with other international players on subjects of common interest.

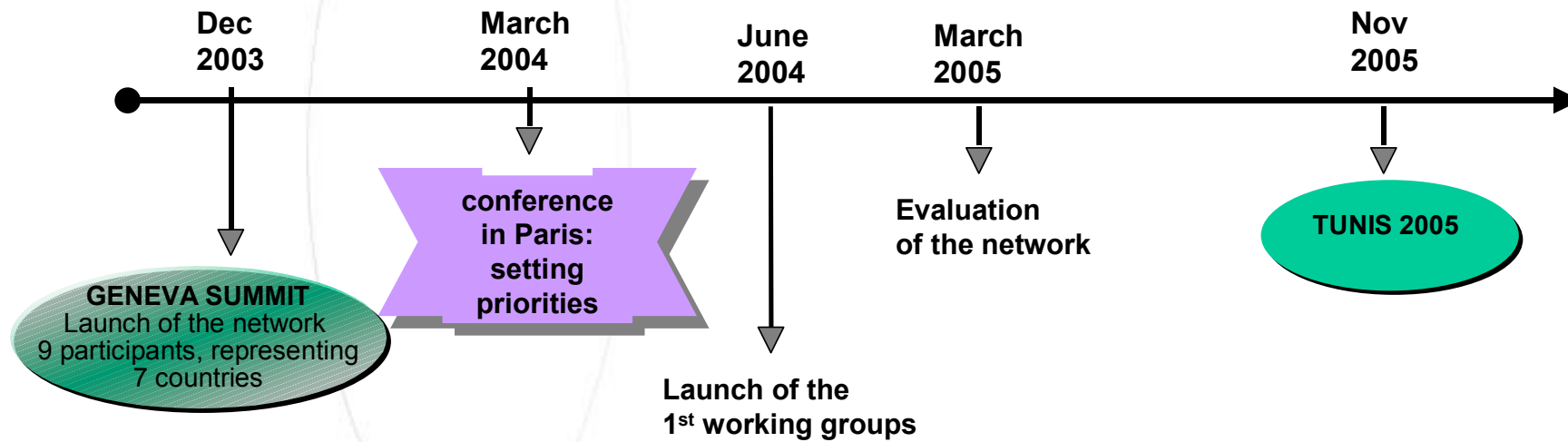
#### **A progressive construction by its members**

The launch of the network in December 2003 is just a beginning. The network will be built progressively under the impulse of its members (see next page).

The first meeting of the European internet coregulation network will take place in March 2004 in Paris. It will be the opportunity for the members to set its priorities for next months. The launch of the first working groups will take place in June 2004.

The website [www.internet-coregulation.org](http://www.internet-coregulation.org) is an immediate illustration of the common will of its participants. It already presents the network, its projects, its members and proposes links to their websites. It will include later more functionalities, like a collaborative work platform.

# Milestones



#### **IV. The network's members**

The network is composed by organizations from 7 European countries :

##### **Forum des droits sur l'internet (France)**

<http://www.foruminternet.org>

Le Forum des droits sur l'internet is a non profit multi-stakeholder body. Since its creation in May 2001, the Forum has been working on internet legal and societal issues.

##### **Le Forum des droits sur l'internet has 4 missions :**

- To organize cooperation between public and private actors on internet legal issues related to content and services
- To sensibilize and inform the public ([www.droitdunet.fr](http://www.droitdunet.fr))
- To propose an alternative dispute resolution service dedicated to internet issues
- To cooperate with a network of international corespondents

The Forum is supported by the French government and ensures the general secretary of the "Conseil consultatif de l'internet".

**The Forum takes stands on law drafts related to the Internet** (for example, the law draft on trust in digital economy). The Forum will be taking a stand on the law draft on the transposition of the "Copyright Directive" and the law draft on electronic communications ("Telecom Package").

##### **It has published recommendations on a variety of subjects, largely implemented :**

- Storage of data on electronic communication – December 2001
- The Internet and alternative methods of conflict resolution – June 2002
- The Internet and electoral communication – August 2002
- The Internet and labour relations – September 2002
- Electronic administration development – February 2003
- Hypertext links – March 2003
- Public data – April 2003
- Forums of discussion – September 2003
- E-vote – October 2003
- Hypertext links – responsibility – November 2003

The topics currently being examined by the working groups are: e-work, child protection, electronic auctions of cultural goods and e-commerce.

The Forum already takes part in European debates. Some European experts are part of the Forum's working groups or have been involved through hearings to the Forum's works.

All permanent staff in the Forum will be involved in the coregulation network according to their area of competence. The FDI will be represented by its general manager, Isabelle Falque-Pierrotin, member of the Council of State.

# **Internet Watch Foundation (United Kingdom)**

<http://www.iwf.org.uk>

## **MISSION**

To work in partnership with Internet Service Providers, Telecommunication Companies, Mobile Operators, Software Providers, the Police and Government to minimise the availability of online illegal content, particularly child abuse images.

## **VISION**

*"Combating Child Abuse Images Online"*

## **ROLE**

### **To foster trust and confidence in the Internet among current and future Internet users**

- by operating a hotline to enable the public to report instances of potential child abuse images, criminally obscene and criminally racist material found anywhere in the world on the Internet, for example via websites, newsgroups, mobiles or other on-line services.
- by promoting wider education and awareness of its functions and role and those of other key players such as the DTI, Law Enforcement and consumer bodies.

To assist service providers to combat the abuse of their systems for the dissemination of criminal content

- by operating a notice and take down service to alert hosting service providers of criminal material found on their servers.
- by recommending that ISPs should not carry certain newsgroups in accordance with policy guidelines adopted by the IWF Board.

### **To assist law enforcement in the fight against criminal content on the Internet**

- by combating the dissemination on the Internet of criminal content i.e. abusive images of children and potentially illegal adult and racist material.
- by passing details of reports relating to potential child abuse images residing on servers outside the UK to the relevant national hotline or appropriate UK law enforcement agency.
- by working closely with the police, lending its expertise to help trace the individuals responsible for such criminal activity online.

The Chief Executive of the IWF is Peter Robbins QPM.

## **Oxford Internet Institute (United Kingdom)**

<http://www.oii.ox.ac.uk>

The Oxford Internet Institute (OII) is a multidisciplinary Internet institute based in Oxford University, exclusively devoted to the study of the impact of the Internet on society. Wide-ranging collaborative relationships with experts from academe, government, business, and industry in the UK and around the world play a central role in its strategic vision. Possible Research areas for the OII include:

- global law enforcement
- governance and regulation
- privacy and security
- confidentiality and trust
- the boundaries of the nation state
- participation in the information society
- e-Government
- the delivery of public services
- e-Democracy
- Internet-enabled healthcare
- innovation and knowledge creation
- effects on education
- the digital divide
- problems and prospects for e-money
- impact on music and the creative arts
- community building and development
- e-Learning

The OII undertakes a wide range of academic research projects including both qualitative and quantitative studies. They recently undertook a survey of 2,030 Britons age 14 and upwards, interviewed face to face between 23 May and 28 June 2003 examining British people have responded to the rise of the Internet. The results will inform other studies on the socio-economic circumstances, political attitudes and social relations of Internet users and non-users.

Internationally, the OII is particularly active, networking and collaborating with foreign universities, research institutes and foundations. At the national level the OII works hard to ensure through dissemination and collaboration that its research findings are translated into policy and practice.

All the OII research fellows and associated members will be involved in the co-regulation network, whenever the issues addressed fall within their area of expertise.

The OII will be represented by William H. Dutton (BA, University of Missouri; MA, PhD, Political Science, SUNY Buffalo, 1974), Director of the Oxford Internet Institute, Professor of Internet Studies, University of Oxford, and Fellow of Balliol College, which honoured him with an Oxford MA in 2002. He was previously a Professor in the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California which he joined in 1980.

## **Information Society Research Institute, ISRI (Hungary)**

[http://www.ittk.hu/english/istri\\_basic.html](http://www.ittk.hu/english/istri_basic.html)

The Information Society Research Institute brings together 20-25 social science experts (in history, philosophy, sociology, economy, anthropology, psychology, law etc.), who can provide and analyse up to date information technology knowledge and work as an interface between Hungarian national programs and initiatives in other countries, especially Europe.

As well as leading specific research programs, the Institute scrutinizes the following major issues:

- Comparative analysis of the national information strategy programs
- Methods and tools for the Hungarian IS- strategic thinking
- Internet: the development of an effective social science of the Net
- Education in the age of information technology
- Information technology in support of minorities and the disabled, computerization and the Roma community, communal information centres, "TeleHouses"
- Effectiveness of constitutional rights in digital environment (data protection and security, freedom of information, freedom of speech, etc)
- Taking a stand on the law draft related Internet issues, eg. data protection of electronic communication and electronic commerce, Hungarian National Digital Archive as intellectual property related issue, digital signature.

The ISRI operates in a way that seeks to bring together all key stakeholders. In its strategic decisions it already involves the Professional Advisory Council, made up of outstanding representatives of the government and the business world, the Scientific Advisory Council, including some well-known representatives from related disciplines, and the Social Advisory Council made up of members of the press, the private sector and the municipal authorities. Establishing new partners at a European level is a key objective of ISRI and one that the co-regulation network will help to attain.

ISRI will be represented by Eva Simon (Lawyer), research fellow of the Information Society Research Institute at the Technical University of Budapest.

## **Forum per la tecnologia della informazione (Italy)**

<http://www.forumti.it>

The Forum per la Tecnologia dell'Informazione (FTI) is an independent, scientific and technical, not-for-profit Association, established in 1985, which operates in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), which adopts a multidisciplinary approach to the study of the Information and Communication Society. The FTI focuses on development strategies for ICTs and their general environment including analysis of the industrial, commercial and social implications of new technologies and applications such as Internet and Net Economy. It also follows and advises on the legal and regulatory issues regarding ICTs.

The FTI organises regular seminars, workshops and conferences (over 500 since 1985), produces studies and research reports (over 90 since 1985, twenty of which (<http://www.forumti.it/fti/biblioteca.asp?editore=2&ln=eng>) were published by Franco Angeli Editore, such as nine editions of the annual "Report on ICT in Italy - Rapporto sulla Tecnologia dell'Informazione e della Comunicazione in Italia"). The FTI often promotes pilot projects, such as XML Lab which is currently a joint initiative with ENEA.

FTI has implemented the following "Permanent Initiatives": Chartaforum Italia (on smart cards); Didaforum Italia (on Advanced Learning Technologies); Ediforum Italia (on electronic commerce); Ergoforum Italia (on e-working); Sicurforum Italia (on ICT security); each of which involved undertaking pilot projects, and the monitoring of single ICT sub-sectors for dissemination. Briefly, the main items on which FTI has been working are:

- ICT regulatory issues with particular attention to the role of independent Authorities;
- Electronic payment systems, such as on-line banking and trading services;
- Smart citizen identity cards;
- E-government;
- EDI (Electronic Data Interchange);
- Teleworking and networked virtual enterprise;
- Economics and politics of telecommunications;
- Geographical Information Systems;
- Digital signatures;
- ICT and gender.

Partners of the FTI include companies (both supply and demand side), central and local Public Administration bodies, Universities and research centres.

Sponsored and promoted by CNEL (Italian National Council for Economy and Labour), the FTI has also developed relationships with International Associations which have the same objectives as the FTI.

FTI will be represented by Giorgio Pacifici, President of the Management Board, which is composed of outstanding representatives of the FTI Partners. The scientific advisors of FTI activities are the members of FTI Scientific Board, which includes experts from business, academia and the public sector. More precisely, some of the members of the Scientific Board are international experts on the legal aspects of ICTs (Judge Renato Borruso, Prof. Antonio A. Martino, Judge Floretta Rolleri). The FTI General Secretary is Pieraugusto Pozzi.

**Osterreichisches Institut für  
angewandte telekommunikation (Austria)**  
<http://www.oiat.at> and <http://ombudsmann.at>

The OIAT is an independent non-profit organisation that currently cooperates with about 100 national and international companies, organisations and government institutions in various projects and programmes. OIAT is a member of [Austrian Cooperative Research \(ACR\)](#), which is a member of the EARTO European Association of Research and Technology Organisations. It is an official partner of the Internet committee of the Austrian government.

The OIAT played a key role in developing codes of conduct in electronic commerce and for a safer Internet at the national and European level. The OIAT organised the implementation and dissemination of these codes of conducts through organisational networks and technical infrastructure like the Euro-Label organisation and Euro-Label website (<http://www.euro-label.com>).

OIAT's focus is the user-centred application of new technologies. OIAT helps companies, consumers and government organisations using information and communication technologies more effectively and safely.

Activities to fulfil this mission are threefold:

a) Projects and initiatives : Development and operation of the Austrian E-Commerce-Trustmark ([www.guetezeichen.at](http://www.guetezeichen.at)), development and operation of the Internet Ombudsman ([www.ombudsmann.at](http://www.ombudsmann.at)), development and cooperative operation of the European e-commerce trustmark "Euro-Label" ([www.euro-label.com](http://www.euro-label.com)) based in Brussels. The OIAT has developed a European network to enforce these codes of conduct. Over 200 European companies are already certified according to this code. The OIAT is the first contact point for journalists and the media in the field of Internet fraud and safer Internet transactions.

b) Research & development in the field of Internet security and user confidence, alternative dispute resolution and co-regulation in Internet safety and security, codes of conduct for safe and secure Internet services.

c) Knowledge transfer, education and training in the field of online confidence, Internet safety and security.

The OIT will be represented by Dr Ronald Hechenberger, Managing Director, Co-founder of the Euro-Label organisation, co-developer of national and international codes of conduct in Internet security and safety. His current work deals with security and confidence for mobile users and workers. He is a graduated engineer and holds an MBA of the University of Southern Queensland. He is also lecturer at the Danube University.

## **Observatoire des Droits de l'Internet - Observatorium van de Rechten op het Internet (Belgium)**

<http://www.internet-observatory.be>

The Observatory is an organisation enabling all actors, public or private, to grasp the ins and outs of new technologies for everyone's sake. It is also an area in which each citizen, closely or remotely involved in ICT, can freely express his opinion and receive information on the decisions that were taken or are to be taken in this regard.

Its 3 missions can be summarized as follows:

- Submit opinions on the economic problems brought about by the use of new information and communication technologies;
- Organise consultation among the economic actors concerned;
- Inform and sensitise the public on these aspects.

The Observatory already work out or contributed to :

- labelling web site,
- digital divide,
- e-government,
- impediments to electronic commerce,
- childhood protection.

The Observatory is composed not only of persons with an undoubted experience in new technologies but also of representatives of the economic actors and representatives of ICT users. Moreover, the Minister for the Economy has an observer seat in this body, as well as the Minister for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.

The Observatory will be represented by its chairman Thibault Verbiest. He is Lawyer at the bar of Brussels and the bar of Paris, Senior Lecturer at the [University of Liège](#) and Fellow at the [University of Paris I \(Sorbonne\)](#).

## **The Swedish Law and Informatics Research Institute**

<http://www.juridicum.su.se/iri>

The Swedish Law and Informatics Research Institute, IRI, began its activities in 1968. It has grown from a modest working party to one of the major research institutes of the Faculty of Law, Stockholm University. At present, three professors of law and informatics have their work place at the IRI. Six doctoral students are active in different fields, among them 'law and information security', 'automation in public administration', and 'access to official documents and data'. The Institute is responsible for several teaching programmes at the law faculty, including a basic, obligatory four-week course in law and information technology and a master of law and information technology programme.

Among the present research projects of the institute, mention may be made of the following three:

- (a) The SAITS project in cooperation with the Swedish Institute of Computer Science. The project aims at developing models for the protection of personal data in a society where ubiquitous computing creates all kinds of new environments for day-to-day life. A forthcoming activity of this project is an international workshop titled "Wholes". It will bring together expertise from information technology, law, and the social sciences to discuss fundamental issues of a reshaped privacy protection (see <http://www.sics.se/~olleo/SAITS/index.html>).
- (b) The SLIM project is intended to provide refined methods of legal security enhancement based on the management of information in context. Different parts of the project deal with managing version dependent text entities over time, authentication of legal texts in the context of legal information retrieval, and security imperatives in legal information (see <http://www.juridicum.su.se/slim/>).
- (c) The JIT programme is financed by the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems. It aims at a broad analysis of legal issues in the context of developing information and communications technologies. Several of the above mentioned doctoral projects are part of the JIT programme which will be completed in 2005.

The Swedish Institute of Law and Information Technology has close contacts with many public and private sector organs. Among other things, it serves as the secretariat of the Swedish Foundation for Legal Information, a trust created by among others the administrative branch of the Swedish Riksdag (parliament), the Swedish Ministry of Justice, the Swedish Bar Association, and a number of major Swedish vendors of electronic legal information.

For many years, the Institute was involved in the work of the Swedish ICT Commission that completed its task in May 2003 (See Swedish Government Official Reports 2002:112. Law and Information Technology Swedish Views). The institute also cooperates with the Swedish Society for Computers and Law. Among other things, this cooperation involves yearly Nordic conferences and an annual publication in law and information technology.

## **Närings Departementet – Swedish government ICT-political strategy group**

This group wants to participate in the discussion about internet use questions in Europe and works with IT political questions on the national level in Sweden.