



RESOLUTION:

## **PROTECTING INTERNET NEUTRALITY**

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting  
In Zagreb, Croatia, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2015

### **Recognising that:**

- The freedom to legally exchange and access information on the internet is an essential facet of a modern, democratic, globalised world;
- The importance of continued efforts to ensure the legal protection of net neutrality, which is an indispensable precondition for safeguarding freedom of information;
- Protecting net neutrality could have a significant impact in boosting economic growth and jobs by developing innovation and business opportunities related to the internet and promoting and safeguarding cultural and linguistic diversity<sup>1</sup>;

### **Acknowledging that:**

- Economic growth related to the internet economy is forecast to be almost 11% in the EU, with a contribution to GDP expected to rise from 3.8% in 2010 to 5.7% in 2016;
- That a YEPP resolution on “High-Speed Broadband in Europe” adopted in April 2010 calls for the EU and other European States to maintain net neutrality;
- That in December 2012 YEPP endorsed The Open Internet Initiative, which seeks to uphold the prosperity, innovation and fundamental rights and liberties that are provided by a free and open internet;
- That a YEPP resolution “In Support of a Free and Open Internet – for a revision of ACTA” adopted in February 2012 rejected ACTA in its then form. ACTA was rejected by the European Parliament entirely in July 2012;
- That in December 2014 German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed her opposition to net neutrality and that a two-lane internet with one lane reserved for high priority services such as telemedicine and driverless cars;

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<sup>1</sup> Article 11- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+MOTION+P8-RC-2015-0099+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

- The continuing trend observed in some member states attempt to curb the global connectivity of their citizens by censorship and other restrictions<sup>2</sup>.

**YEPP calls on:**

- Online rights for privacy and of users' control of their personal data to be fully recognised as essential rights by the European Union, establishing an open and neutral internet and a level playing field for businesses on the web<sup>3</sup>;
- All internet traffic to be treated equally, without unjustified discrimination, restriction or interference, irrespective of its sender, receiver, type, content, device, service or application.
- The only exception made to the above should be in cases of emergency communication (eg medical emergencies, civil protection) which should always have highest priority.

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<sup>2</sup> Article 12- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+MOTION+P8-RC-2015-0099+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

<sup>3</sup> Article 13- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+MOTION+P8-RC-2015-0099+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>