

World Conference on International Telecommunications 2012

Comments and Discussion

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The views expressed in the presentation are those of the authors

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WCIT-12: Comments and Discussion

- December 2012, Organized by ITU
 - Review the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs)
 - International treaty
 - Established in 1988
 - Focus on operator compensation for international voice calls
 - Amendments will lead to new treaty
 - Conference participation strictly regulated
 - One vote per accredited country delegation

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- “Two camps”
 - Camp 1: “Bring Internet under ITU jurisdiction”
 - “Apply fixed phone line principles”
 - Proposals include “sender pays”, “charge over-the-top (OTT) providers”, introduce Quality-of Service (QoS) in addition to “best effort”
 - Allow for better control (aka “license for censorship”)
 - Considered as camp 1 members: China, Russia, ETNO (“Who is who” of incumbent telecom operators), and others

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- Camp 2: “If it ain’t broke don’t fix it”
 - Don’t touch, multi-stake holder principle has been working very well
 - Two billion users, and it is done on a handshake
 - Internet brought prices for data down to a 100,000 times less than that of a voice minute
 - SMS and iMessages: 28,000 iMessages / s
 - QoS: “V. Cerf: QoS is like putting a gun at your head”
 - Camp 2 proponents: Internet Society (ISOC), Euro-IX, EuroISPA, USA, European countries, EC, and others

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- Current status
 - ITU has asked for public opinions and views (until 3 November)
 - Amendments have been proposed (see ITU Web site)
 - Conference preparations taking place in the member countries
 - ETNO proposal rejected in several countries

WCIT-12: Comments and Discussion

- What you are invited to do
 - Support the open, competitive and innovative nature of the Internet
 - Urge the delegation of your country to follow a course of action that ensures the future of the Internet as mentioned above
 - Talk to the media
 - You are welcome to use or refer to the related Euro-IX documents (position statement, open letter, view and opinions submitted to ITU)

WCIT-12: Comments and Discussion

- Some references
 - ITU, "International Telecommunication Regulations," Melbourne (WATTC-88), ISBN 92-61-03921-9 (<http://www.itu.int/oth/T3F01000001>)
 - Example of a controversial document: ETNO (The European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association) Paper on Contribution to WCIT <http://www.etno.eu/news/etno/2012/51>)
 - Example of a reply to a controversial document: US Ambassador Kennard's speech at the FR ETNO conference
<http://www.key4biz.eu/etnodigital/newsletter/ambassador-kennard-on-the-future-of-the-internet.html>)
 - Internet traffic exchange: 2 billion users and it's done on a handshake
<http://oecdinsights.org/2012/10/22/internet-traffic-exchange-2-billion-users-and-its-done-on-a-handshake/>
 - Euro-IX Board Position Statement <https://www.euro-ix.net/documents/1042-EuroIX-EC-WCIT-Position-Statement-pdf?download=yes>
 - Euro-IX Members: Open Letter to CEPT