



**POLITICAL LEADERSHIP FOR NETWORK SOCIETY**



European Internet Foundation



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The European Internet Foundation (EIF) was founded in March 2000 by three Members of the European Parliament: James Elles, Erika Mann and Elly Plooij-van Gorsel. The Foundation is independent, not-for-profit and non-partisan.

Our mission is to support Members of European Parliament in their efforts to shape policy and regulation responsive to the unique potential and character of the internet revolution.

New advances in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) continue to evolve at an astonishing rate. As they do, they drive change across the full spectrum of human activity with profound social, economic and political consequences. These dynamics in turn confront politicians and regulators with unavoidable new issues, which demand policy responses based on deep understanding of the technological, economic and social forces at play. EIF's practical purpose is to help spread such understanding and vision among Members of the European Parliament.

Since its founding, EIF has emerged as a unique network and meeting place within the EU policy community, cutting across institutional boundaries and regularly bringing together the many different stakeholders in Europe's ICT landscape.

The EIF focuses on issues and actions arising within the treaty framework of the European Union. At the same time, EIF is leading the debate in new topics which are just starting to become an issue, either in Europe, the US or elsewhere.

Through a continuous programme of live debates, special projects and interactive communication activities featuring open and inclusive dialogue among all Foundation members, EIF plays an active role in creating space for greater understanding of the digital revolution.

The Foundation does not itself take position on specific issues.

***EIF mission is to help provide European political leadership for the development of European and multilateral public policies responsive to the political, economic and social challenges of the worldwide digital revolution. Its purpose is to help ensure that Europe remains at the forefront of this revolution and benefits fully from it through enhanced global competitiveness and social progress.***

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the European Internet Foundation is open to all current Members of the European Parliament.

**EIF membership is divided into 3 main categories:**

- Political Members (MEPs)
- Business Members (companies)
- Associate Members (associations, NGOs and other organisations).

Together they encompass a broad range of interests and actors in the vanguard of internet-driven change across Europe. We continually seek to expand the breadth and depth of interests and points of view within the EIF membership on a non-discriminatory basis.

The Foundation is supported primarily through the membership fees of our Business and Associate Members.

Functioning as a real “network organisation”, EIF provides its members with the opportunity to actively contribute to the aims of the Foundation, by taking part in its activities and helping shape and organise EIF debates.

## COOPERATION, OUTREACH AND DIALOGUE

Many of the issues related to technology, the Internet and the digital revolution that will change our world in the coming years are global in nature and therefore will demand joint leadership from Europe, the U.S. and other key regions.



The EIF benefits from active cooperation and collaboration with other political, academic and governmental institutions and networks. We cooperate closely with the European Commission, the EU Council of Ministers and EU Member States. We also have an intensive dialogue with the United States Congressional Internet Caucus.



*EIF members participate in a unique network in the Brussels policy arena. They have the opportunity to actively contribute to EIF activities and debates.*



*EIF events are ideally placed to facilitate open debate and discussion.*



## EVENTS

EIF regularly hosts distinguished speakers from around the world in a rich programme of live debates mainly held in the European Parliament in Brussels. Each year EIF hosts several debates bringing together policy makers, businesses, academics and officials.

Some of the key topics that will be addressed during the upcoming legislature include the following non-comprehensive list:

### Digital Technology

#### Science, research & development

- European Research Area
- ICT priorities & strategies
- Public & private roles

#### Science education

#### European software strategy

#### Innovation through ICT

- Systems integration
- Embedded systems
- Life-time optimisation

#### Standards / interoperability

### Digital Economy

#### Education, training and skills for the digital world

#### Smart growth - application of ICT in:

- health care
- education
- public services
- major infrastructure

### Intellectual property

- copyright, patents, trademarks
- European frameworks

### Regulation

- Electronic communications (“telecom”) framework
- Privacy
- Spectrum
- Competition

### Environment: emissions, waste

### Political and Social Dimension

#### Privacy & security

- personal security
- civil & national defense
- critical infrastructure
- e-Identity

#### Social networks / media

#### Digital divide

#### Digital politics, governance & public services

#### Internet governance

#### Digital freedom

In a convivial atmosphere, where participants exchange views, ideas and insights, EIF debates both inform and stimulate discussion on the increasingly pervasive impact of the European network society and the future policy choices to handle them.

As the leading independent Internet forum at the heart of Brussels, EIF holds events that have gained a reputation for being timely, informative and of the highest standard.



European Internet Foundation  
Political Leadership for Network Society





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**For more information on our activities, please visit our website,  
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