POLITICAL LEADERSHIP **FOR NETWORK SOCIETY**

European Internet Foundation

EIF's mission is to support Members of the European Parliament from all political groups in their efforts to shape policy and regulation responsive to the growing potential of the internet and new technologies.

EIF focuses on issues and actions at the top of the political agenda and on emerging future trends at both European and global level.

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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.

EIF is independent, not-for-profit and non-partisan.

EIF's 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 transformation. Its purpose is to help ensure that Europe remains at the forefront of this transformation and benefits fully from it through enhanced global competitiveness and social progress.

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.

EIF focuses on issues and actions at the top of the political agenda and emerging future trends at both European and global level.

Through a continuous programme of live debates and special projects featuring open and inclusive dialogue, EIF creates a space for greater understanding of the digital world.

EIF does not itself take any position nor represent specific interest.

Photo on left: EIF Political members Ivailo Kalfin MEP (S&D), Malcolm Harbour MEP (ECR), Pilar Del Castillo MEP (EPP), Edit Herczog MEP (S&D), Lambert van Nistelrooij MEP (EPP) with Neelie Kroes, European Commission Vice-President, at the EIF Special Event on Cloud Computing in 2012.

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EVENTS

EIF regularly hosts distinguished speakers from around the world in a rich programme of live debates bringing together policy makers, businesses, academics and officials in the European Parliament in Brussels. All EIF members can actively contribute to EIF debates and activities.

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.

MEMBERSHIP

EIF membership 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, academic institutions and others).

EIF membership also includes a variety of leading companies and organisations which together encompass a broad range of interests and actors in the vanguard of internet and ICTs. We continually seek to expand the breadth and depth of interests and points of view within the EIF membership on a non-discriminatory basis.

EIF is governed by its Political members all of whom are current members of the European Parliament. EIF is supported exclusively through the membership fees of our Business and Associate Members.

Functioning as a real "network organisation", EIF provides all its members with the opportunity to actively participate in its activities and to help shape EIF's programme.

COOPERATION AND OUTREACH

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

EIF benefits from active collaboration with political, academic and governmental institutions and networks. We cooperate closely with the European Commission and EU Member States. We also have an intensive dialogue with the United States Congressional Internet Caucus and other organisations such as Transatlantic Policy Network, Digital Policy Alliance. EIF continuously seeks enhanced outreach to third countries.

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

European Internet Foundation
Political Leadership for Network Society

**For more information on our activities,
please visit our website or contact our Secretariat:**

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