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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Council

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Subject: Developments on internet governance  
- Information from the Commission

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**IANA Transition**

The contract between the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the United States Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), regarding the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions, was allowed to expire on 30 September and supervision of that function became the responsibility of the multistakeholder community. In parallel, necessary improvements to ICANN's accountability processes and procedures were introduced, and the new bylaws giving effect to those changes came into operation on 1 October. This is a major milestone for the multi-stakeholder community.

The events of the last few weeks of September almost threatened to stop the transition due to domestic political concerns in the context of the election climate in the USA. There are important messages to be taken from this: (1) the danger of one country or one single player being able to influence processes that had such a broad consensus from all the interested stakeholders around the world and (2) that the multi-stakeholder model can work. Now the new model will be put to the test and it is up to all stakeholders to support it. Europe played an important role in calling for this transition for many years and actively supporting the work on the IANA transition and associated ICANN accountability improvements (also some of the co-chairs of the key working groups were European). It will be particularly important now for Europe to take a responsible and supportive role in ensuring the success of the new model by working together for a common purpose.

## **IGF 2016**

IGF 2016 will take place in Guadalajara (Mexico) from 6-9 December 2016 preceded by a High Level Leaders Meeting (Ministerial) on 5 December. This will be the first meeting under the IGF new ten-year mandate established during the WSIS+10 review in New York in December 2015, with the title "Enabling Inclusive and Sustainable Growth". The European Parliament is particularly interested in taking a positive and active role in the IGF, as attested by the participation of a delegation of 18 MEPs (the largest ever sent to an IGF), spanning all political groups. On Day 1 of the event, the European Commission will hold an Open Forum on the Global Internet Policy Observatory (GIPO), which is generating a lot of interest in the IGF community. In addition, with the help of EuroDIG, an EU stand will be set in the "exhibition village" and the outcomes of the June EuroDIG meeting in Brussels will be an important input to this year's IGF.

## **Next Generation Internet Initiative**

Europe should continue to be a significant actor in internet governance, in line with the importance of the Internet for the European economy and society. To do so Europe needs to be in the forefront of the debate on the future of the Internet. The European Commission is starting a reflection on how to shape the future of the internet.

The policy objective of this reflection on Next Generation Internet (NGI) is to visibly impact the evolution of the Internet as a global socio-economic resource. The NGI initiative has been launched in the Work Programme 2016-2017 of Horizon 2020<sup>1</sup> and started in November 2016 with an open consultation<sup>2</sup> running from 9 November 2016 until 9 January 2017. An online platform<sup>3</sup> to engage with a broad audience where participants can access and comment on background documents<sup>4</sup> and learn about relevant events<sup>5</sup> is in place. A report with the results of the consultation will be published in January 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016\\_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-leit-ict\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-leit-ict_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/NGI>

<sup>3</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/next-generation-internet>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/next-generation-internet/documents>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/next-generation-internet/events>