

We Must Protect Net Neutrality in Europe! *Open letter to the European Parliament* Net neutrality has been an indispensable catalyst of competition, innovation, and fundamental freedoms in the digital environment. A neutral Internet ensures that users face no conditions limiting access to applications and services. Likewise, it rules out any discrimination against the source, destination or actual content of the information transmitted over the network.

Thanks to this principle, our society collectively built the Internet as we know it today. Except in some authoritarian regimes, everyone around the globe has access to the same Internet, and even the smallest entrepreneurs are on equal footing with the leading global enterprises. Moreover, Net neutrality stimulates the virtuous circle of a development model based on the growth of a common communication network that enables new uses and tools, as opposed to one relying on investments in filtering and controlling. Only under such conditions is Internet continuously improving our societies, enhancing freedom – including the freedom of expression and communication – and allowing for more efficient and creative markets.

However, Net neutrality is now under the threat of telecom operators and content industries that see business opportunities in discriminating, filtering or prioritizing information flowing through the network. All around Europe, these kind of discriminatory practices, detrimental to both consumers and innovation, are emerging. No court or regulator seems to have adequate tools to counter these behaviors and preserve the general interest. Some provisions introduced in the Telecoms Package could even encourage such practices.

We who have signed this open letter urge the European Parliament to protect the freedom to receive and distribute content, and to use services and applications without interference from private actors. We call on the Members of the Parliament to take decisive action during the ongoing negotiation of the Telecoms Package in order to guarantee a free, open and innovative Internet, and to safeguard the fundamental freedoms of European citizens.

The first signatories of this letter are (in alphabetical order):

	Altroconsumo - Italy Altroconsumo is the largest independent consumer organisation in Italy, with over 300,000 members.
	April - France April is the main French advocacy association devoted to promote and protect Free/Libre Software
	Asociación de Internautas - Spain
	Bits of Freedom - The Netherlands Bits of Freedom defends digital civil rights, such as privacy on the Internet and online freedom of speech.
	Chaos Computer Club (CCC) - Germany Europe's largest hacker group, founded in 1981.
	Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) - International EFF is the leading civil liberties group defending US citizen's rights in the digital world.
	Електронна граница България (Electronic Frontier Bulgaria) - Bulgaria EFB defend human rights in the digital world and the Internet.
	FFII e.V. (Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure) - Europe The Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure (FFII) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to establishing a free market in information technology, by the removal of barriers to competition.
	Föreningen fri kultur & programvara - Sweden FFKP is a non-profit organisation that foster free culture and open source software.
	Free Hardware Foundation - Italy La Free Hardware Foundation si impegna nella realizzazione della Civiltà della Condivisione della Conoscenza, attraverso i valori della Cooperazione, della Condivisione, della Creatività, della Lealtà, della Collaborazione, della Trasparenza, della Volontà di Partecipare e di far Partecipare, della Sostenibilità, ma soprattutto della Libertà.
	Free Knowledge Institute - Europe The Free Knowledge Institute (FKI) is a non-profit organisation that fosters the free exchange of knowledge in all areas of society.
	Hacktivistas - Spain An open technology enthusiasts collective focusing on free culture, free society and privacy.
	ISOC-ECC - Europe ISOC-ECC coordinates the work of the European ISOC Chapters. It helps to educate European users, industry and researchers and fosters their participation in decision-making processes about Internet-related issues.
	IT-Political Association of Denmark - Denmark IT-Politisk Forening arbejder for at indsamle viden om IT og formidle den til politikere og samfundet, for at give det bedst mulige grundlag for lovgivning.



[La Quadrature du Net](#) - France

La Quadrature du Net is a citizen group informing about legislative projects menacing civil liberties as well as economic and social development in the digital age.



[Open Source Consortium](#) - United Kingdom

The Open Source Consortium represents companies that deliver solutions and advice based on Open Standards and Free & Open Source Software.



[Open Video Alliance](#) - International

A coalition of organizations and individuals devoted to creating and promoting free and open technologies, policies, and practices in online video.

[Scambio Etico](#) - Italy

ScambioEtico is the concrete and daily practice of a community of 270.000 people who engage in free movement of knowledge, in copyright reform and in defense of civil rights, which must be guaranteed also in the Internet.



[The Julia Group \(Juliagruppen\)](#) - Sweden

The Julia group is a non profit organisation working for a free and open internet.



[The WeReBuild clusters](#) - Europe

We Rebuild is a decentralized cluster of net activists who have joined forces to collaborate on issues concerning access to a free Internet without intrusive surveillance.



[UFC - Que Choisir](#) - France

UFC - Que Choisir is the main French consumer organization, with more than 124.000 members, oldest consumer association in western Europe.



[Vrijschrift](#) - The Netherlands

Vrijschrift creates awareness about the economic and social meaning of free knowledge and culture for our society.