

EU, US Issue Joint Statement On Information Society

14/04/2015 BY WILLIAM NEW, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WATCH -- LEAVE A COMMENT

The European Union and the United States today held the 13th bilateral Information Society Dialogue and issued a statement highlighting issues discussed and agreed.

The two government entities covered topics such as the EU Digital Single Market, digital skills, open internet, the data-driven economy, internet governance, the United Nations review of the 2003-2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and cooperation on international telecommunications policy.

The event was held in Brussels and included a Digital Economy Workshop hosted by the Trans-Atlantic Business Council and a reception hosted by the Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA).

CCIA published before the meeting a list of ten recommendations which it said would "boost our transatlantic digital economy and restore trust."

James Waterworth, vice-president and head of CCIA Europe, said in a statement, "Today's EU and US agreement on enhanced cooperation on key Internet policy issues is a testament to an improved transatlantic relationship." The industry group applauded the two sides for "working for an open Internet, online freedoms, and a removal of barriers to digital commerce at home and abroad.

"The digital economy is growing seven times that of the overall GDP in Europe alone, with a full 75-percent of the Internet's benefits being enjoyed by so-called 'traditional industries', Waterworth said. "CCIA's recommendations provide concrete ideas on how to boost transatlantic digital growth and restore

trust. From better privacy protections to intermediary liability limits, the key to growing the digital economy will be setting the right framework for businesses while enhancing trust."

[Update:] Christian Borggreen, CCIA director of international digital economy policy, said afterward that he was pleased with the EU-US statement.

"The joint statement shows that the EU and the US are agreeing on most key digital policy issues including on the need to keep the Internet open, to allow free expression and the free flow of information across borders and to support for the multi-stakeholder Internet governance model," he said. "Both delegations also stressed how Internet tools can connect people to jobs and entrepreneurs to economic opportunities."

Below is the full joint EU-US statement, also available [here](#).

Joint Statement for the 2015 EU-US Information Society Dialogue

Published on 14/04/2015

The European Union and the United States held the thirteenth EU-US Information Society Dialogue to discuss issues related to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the digital economy in Brussels on April 14, 2015.

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in this dialogue, participants held open and vibrant discussions on topics including the EU Digital Single Market; Support for Innovation, Web-Entrepreneurship and Digital Skills; Net Neutrality; the Data-Driven Economy and Internet Governance. The dialogue was complemented by opportunities for engagement with the private sector including the Digital Economy Workshop hosted by the Trans-Atlantic Business Council and a reception hosted by the Computers and Communications Industry Association.

• The EU Digital Single Market

The EU delegation shared the current thinking on the Digital Single Market (DSM) in the EU. The DSM Strategy will be built on three pillars: 1) better access for consumers and businesses to online goods and services across Europe; 2) creating the right conditions for digital networks and services to flourish; and 3) maximising the growth potential of the European Digital Economy. Whereas the United States is a digital single market in itself, the European Union has not reached its potential in today's digital era.

Participants discussed the potential global importance of the DSM. The sides agreed that the DSM would be an historic opportunity for European industry and consumers as well as US businesses. They agreed that an open exchange with stakeholders is critical to building consensus and could address the concerns that US industry has expressed. The participants agreed to structured channels to continue exchanging views on the digital economy and the DSM proposal in the run-up to its presentation in May 2015 and beyond.

• Support for Innovation, Web-Entrepreneurship and Digital Skills

The EU delegation presented its initiative, Startup Europe, and how it could be promoted in the US. The participants had an exchange of views on digital skills in Europe and the United States, in order to see how both sides can learn from previous experience. The US participants discussed broadband initiatives that support online innovation, and highlighted programs throughout the US government that support entrepreneurship. Participants discussed cooperation mechanisms for supporting start-ups and innovation.

• Open Internet

The US delegation shared information about the recently adopted Open Internet Order by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), discussed key legal and policy challenges surrounding open Internet protections and how to ensure that the Internet remains open around the world. The EU discussed the recently introduced legislation on the Telecom Single Market that includes

principles very similar to those that the FCC adopted. The participants agreed that the underlying approach and intent in safeguarding the open Internet is the same in both cases, and agreed to enhance information sharing on open Internet related and other communications policy issues of mutual interest.

The Data-Driven Economy

The EU delegation shared information on its Big Data Strategy, and the US delegation explained the follow-up to the US Big Data and Privacy Review issued by the White House in May 2014. The participants recognised the importance of Big Data, including cooperation on data research, as a key enabler of innovative services and predictive analytics that reap great rewards in research, education, health, development, among other opportunities, while noting the need to also protect privacy and other values. Big Data, Internet of Things (IoT) and Cloud Computing are perceived by both the European Union and the United States as engines for economic growth and societal transformation. The delegations agreed to explore opportunities for enhanced collaboration and information sharing on topics including standards, demonstrators, engagement of new actors, and entrepreneurship.

The issue of cross border data flows was raised. The participants agreed that data flows are of fundamental importance to the modern global economy, and that an appropriate balance must be struck between ICT's ability to spur economic growth, innovation, and cost savings with concerns about privacy and security. Both the United States and the European Union are committed to a robust trans-Atlantic digital marketplace that sparks innovation, fuels economic growth and allows for the freedom of expression and the free flow of information across borders. Both delegations also stressed how new ICTs are tools that can create equal opportunities for men and women by reducing poverty, promoting and protecting fundamental rights and empowering individuals and groups by connecting them to unlimited opportunity.

The participants agreed to work together along with other European members on common objectives and an approach to the 2016 OECD Committee on Digital Economic Policy Ministerial Meeting on Maximising the Benefits of the

Internet Economy, where Ambassador Daniel Sepulveda will serve as a vice-chairman.

- **Internet Governance**

Participants underscored the importance of an inclusive, open, and multi-stakeholder approach to Internet Governance. They affirmed their support for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as a valuable global, multi-stakeholder platform for discourse on key themes and developments on Internet issues, and called for extending the mandate for the IGF going forward. The multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance is essential to preserving the free and open Internet, and further developing the global economy.

The EU delegation expressed its support for the US government's announcement to transition stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions to the global multi-stakeholder community as the final phase of the privatisation of the Domain Name System (DNS), as outlined by the US Government in 1997.

- **World Summit on the Information Society**

The US and EU participants look forward to the UN General Assembly review of the World Summit on the Information Society in December this year and welcome stakeholder input and participation. As the UN looks toward its post-2015 development agenda, it is timely for a review of WSIS and its goal of building a people-centred, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society. The participants agreed to explore opportunities for future collaboration and joint outreach by the United States and the European Union, including the EU Member States. Participants further agreed that the UN General Assembly review should reaffirm the goals for the use of ICT for development established in the original WSIS outcome documents and reiterate its support for the multistakeholder system of Internet governance.

- **Mutual Cooperation on International Telecommunications Matters**

Participants confirmed that they will work cooperatively on important agendas such as ensuring the ITU's role in matters such as global spectrum management, telecommunications standardisation, and related development efforts. Participants highlighted the importance of the November 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference for allocating new spectrum for mobile broadband and innovative technologies such as unmanned aircraft systems and space science missions.

Participants:

The US delegation was led by Department of State Ambassador Daniel A. Sepulveda, and included FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, US Mission to the European Union Ambassador Anthony Gardner, Department of Commerce Deputy General Counsel Justin Antonipallai and International Trade Association Deputy Assistant Secretary for Services Ted Dean, and representatives from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and State Department's Office of the Cyber Coordinator. The EU delegation was led by Deputy Director-General Roberto Viola, DG CONNECT of the European Commission, with the participation of Directors Gerard de Graaf, Anthony Whelan, and Mario Campolargo, and Heads of Unit and Deputy Heads of Unit representing DG CONNECT, with observers from other European Commission services and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

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