Net Neutrality and the Quest for Sustainable Internet

A public debate on the issue of Net Neutrality organised by the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications of Romania (ANCOM) and the Association for Internet and Technology (ApTI)

5 June 2012, Athénée Palace Hilton Hotel, Bucharest

Registration, welcome coffee		9.00-9.30
Opening	*Welcome speech:* **Cătălin Marinescu**, President of ANCOM *Opening speech:* **Dan Nica**, Minister, Ministry of Communications and Information Society (MCSI)	9.30-9.50

First session	***Major Facts about and Attitudes towards Net Neutrality***
	Keynote speech:
	    Veronica Bocarova, Cullen International
	Panellists:
	    Nicolas Seidler, Policy Advisor, Regional European Bureau, Internet Society (ISOC)
	    Gheorghe Şerban, Executive Director, National Association of Internet Service Providers of Romania (ANISP)
	    Mihaela-Alexandrina Scrioşteanu, Executive Director, Music Industry Association of Romania (AIMR)
	    Bogdan Manolea, Executive Director, Association for Internet and Technology (ApTI)
	    Zoli Herczeg, ISV Business Development Manager, Microsoft Romania
	    Liviu Popescu, Executive Director, Mobile Operators Association of Romania (AOMR)
	    Kirsten Fiedler, Advocacy Manager, European Digital Rights (EDRi)
	    Ioana Anescu, Executive Director, Interactive Advertising Bureau Romania (IAB Romania)
	    Lucian Obrocea, President, Interlan Association
	    Florin Grozea, Composer and entertainer
	Hosted by:
	    Alexandrina Dospinescu, Partner, Raţiu&Raţiu
		9.50-12.00

	The debate on Net Neutrality has been going on for a number of years and consensus is far from having been reached, while the different stakeholders – the consumer associations, the Internet service providers, the providers of content, services and applications and the civil rights groups rely on the regulatory authorities to answer such questions as: - Is the very nature of the Internet potentially altered by traffic restrictions and limitations? - What challenges and threats make traffic restrictions justified and/or necessary? - Does the open Internet have a price? And who should pay for it? Should content providers contribute to the development of networks in order to preserve the avenues by which their consumers receive their products and services? How could such a mechanism work? - Should Internet service providers be free to prioritise traffic in accordance with content or source, should traffic routing be completely neutral, or is there a way in the middle?	

	- Should end-users be made to pay for "free" access? - Can proportionality be ensured so that civil liberties and the inherent freedom of the Internet are not impaired by such traffic restrictions and prioritizations?	
Coffee break		12.00-12.15

Second session	***Traffic Management Practices and Regulations: Transparency, Quality of Service and Content Policies***
	
	Keynote presentation:
	
	    Findings of BEREC's work on the various issues pertaining to and stemming from Net Neutrality
	
	    Cătălin Marinescu, President of ANCOM, Romania
	
	Panellists:
	
	    Remko Bos, Head of department, Consumers, Numbers and Governance, Independent Post and Telecommunications Authority (OPTA), the Netherlands
	
	    Marc Lebourges, France Télécom-Orange Group
	
	    Frode Sørensen, Senior Adviser, Post and Telecommunications Authority (NPT), Norway
	
	    Răzvan Ionescu, General Manager, Regulatory Affairs Division, Romtelecom, Romania
	
	    Valentin Popoviciu, Development Director, RCS & RDS, Romania
	
	    Helena Bäckström, Senior Adviser, Consumer Markets Department, Post and Telecom Authority (PTS), Sweden
	
	    Dinu Malacopol, CEO, Digital Cable Systems (DCS), Romania
	
	Hosted by:
	
	    Cătălin Marinescu, President of ANCOM, Romania
		12.15-13.45

	Transparency with regard to restrictions to the access to content and applications is one of the key elements used in the European Union in order to achieve net neutrality. As its latest contribution to the promotion of Net Neutrality in Europe, BEREC issued a set of Guidelines on Net Neutrality and Transparency – Best practices and recommended approaches. At the same time, resource allocation, or a prioritisation of data traffic, is already taking place via the various rates being offered to end users. There are also prioritization protocols that the providers implement in order to ensure quality of service at peak times. The questions are: - Does transparency ensure enough protection for the end-users that may be subject to differentiated access to different content online? - Is non-discrimination the answer? - Should there be other specific Net Neutrality obligations imposed on the providers? - What traffic management measures could be considered as appropriate, proportional or sufficient in order to achieve Net Neutrality? - What practices could be defined as reasonable traffic management practices? Are there any practices that could be at any time considered as unreasonable or absolutely necessary? - Quality of service within IP networks	
	Q & A	
Lunch break		13.45-14.30

Third session - Roundtable	***Net Neutrality as a Common Goal - The Role of the Different Actors Involved***
	
	Roundtable involving all confirmed speakers
	
	Moderated by:
	
	    Alexandrina Dospinescu, Partner, Raţiu&Raţiu
	
	    Cătălin Marinescu, President of ANCOM
		14.30-16.00

	While we all share a common goal, that of an ubiquitous, accessible, open and sustainable internet, the different stakeholders have diverging opinions on the overall strategy that will lead to reaching that goal. - Can these diverging interests eventually converge towards the common goal? - In the present regulatory context, what would be the best role to be assigned to the different actors: NRAs, national governments, electronic communications service providers, content providers, end-users in order to achieve the Net Neutrality objective? - Are the regulators the most appropriate mediators for this argument? All speakers are invited to enter the debate and share their views.	
Conclusions of the debate	**Cătălin Marinescu**, President of ANCOM	16.00