

**Friday April 4th, 2014**

## **A step forward for Net Neutrality in Europe**

OpenForum Europe welcomes the historic vote on the new telecom package that took place in the European Parliament on April 3rd and congratulates MEPs and the Commission for their efforts to safeguard the Open Internet in Europe. In an unusually short period of 6 months, this initial phase of the legislative process managed to deliver a solid basis for the Council of the EU to work on. We [have explained before](#) why we believe that iron-clad guarantees for net neutrality are needed to ensure continued innovation and fair, open competition in the online ecosystem. The Internet is an enormous engine for growth and access to knowledge, and key to its success has always been the possibility for anyone, anywhere to freely create and share content with every other user on the network.

Notable improvements brought to the text by MEPs include actually spelling out the principle of non-discrimination on the Internet, and proposing a clearer definition for so-called 'specialised services', which allow Internet Service Providers to provide a higher quality of service for part of the Internet traffic. Overall, the risks of allowing these 'specialised services' to be abused in a discriminatory or anti-competitive manner have been greatly reduced.

This is only a first step in the legislative process – the text now has to go through the Council of the EU, which we trust will take note of the strong support for net neutrality expressed by the Parliament. National Regulating Authorities will then have the difficult task to implement and monitor the effective implementation of the principles.

*Note:*

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