



NET NEUTRALITY

Press release buzzword translator

SAVE THE INTERNET
<https://savetheinternet.eu>

At lunchtime tomorrow, the European Parliament votes on a proposal that deals with net neutrality and roaming. If no amendments are adopted, you will receive a press release shortly afterwards, announcing that the EU has adopted legislation defending net neutrality. This is not true. In reality, no decisions have been made - except to ban voluntary web blocking.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DECODING TOMORROW'S EU PRESS RELEASES:

"The EU has adopted a net neutrality law."

DECODED

The EU has adopted a law which does not mention net neutrality.



"The Regulation gives us clear rules."

DECODED

Content, applications and services may not be blocked **except** if the consumer has exceeded their download limit and they are accessing a service not covered by a discriminatory "zero rating" scheme.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Telecom regulators will decide, on a case by case basis, whether such discrimination is permitted. However, they will decide on the basis of competition only, and not on the basis of our human right to freely receive and impart information.

Content may not be slowed down, **except** if the provider is not prioritising that category of data.

DECODED

"The Regulation bans throttling of content."

The Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications (BEREC) will have to interpret an EU Regulation which gives an open permission to telecoms companies to prioritise different categories of data but also says that such prioritisation should only happen "as long as necessary". What would be "necessary"?

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



"The Regulation bans paid prioritisation of content."

DECODED

Content providers may not pay to have their content prioritised, **except** if they are exploiting the unclear rules on "specialised services".



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

BEREC will have to work out when paid prioritisation is allowed under the definition of "other" services which can be prioritised if "necessary". "Necessary" is defined in the Regulation as not really necessary.

"We now have rules on 'the open Internet'."

DECODED

The "open Internet" is the Internet minus the ill-defined "specialised service" fast lanes. The distinction between these two types of online traffic is unclear in the regulation.

BEREC will have to interpret the unclear text and decide whether there will be net neutrality in Europe.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



What will be decided tomorrow? The Parliament will either adopt amendments to implement clear net neutrality rules or decide not to make a decision. In that case, regulators will decide whether or not the neutral, innovative internet will be protected and EU Member States will be banned from passing clear laws of their own.