

PROTECTING DIGITAL FREEDOM

Annual Report

January 2013 – December 2013

European Digital Rights was founded in June 2002. Currently, 35 civil rights organisations have EDRi membership. They are based or have offices in 21 different countries in Europe.

Members of European Digital Rights have joined forces to defend civil and human rights in information society. The need for cooperation among organizations active in Europe is increasing as more regulation of our digital communications networks is originating from European institutions, or from international institutions with strong impact in Europe.

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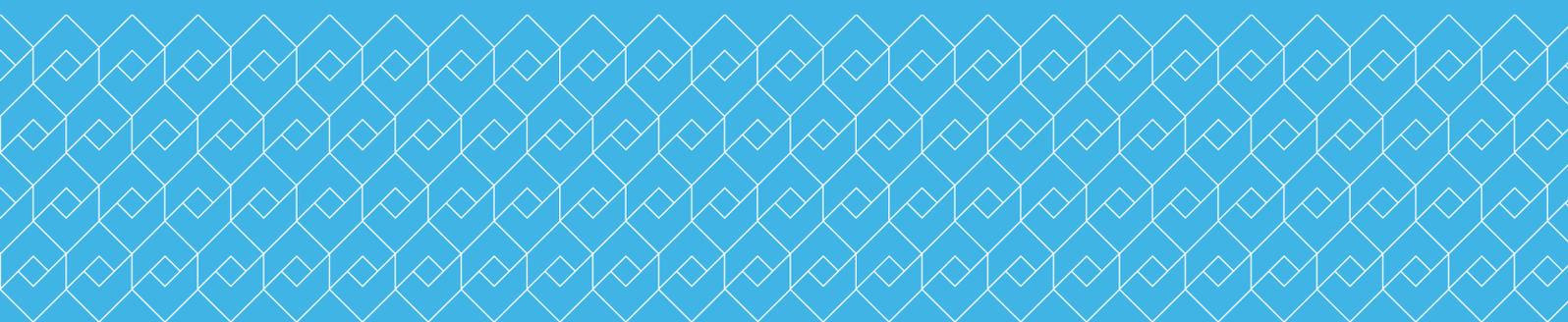


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Executive Summary

Since 2009, European Digital Rights has undergone substantial changes and evolved from being a decentralised alliance with no staff to an influential organisation that has standing and credibility at the end of 2013.

During the last few years, EDRi started to “change gear” in order to continue to develop as an effective voice for the civil rights of European citizens in the digital environment. We have worked towards strengthening and increasing our sustainability as a member organisation and to thereby increase our impact in the promotion of digital civil and human rights.

“EDRi started to “change gear” in order to continue to develop as an effective voice for the civil rights of European citizens in the digital environment.”

This report covers the period from January 2013 until December 2013.

2013 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ The European Parliament called for a **suspension of the SWIFT agreement**, one of EDRI's longstanding demands.
- ✓ We achieved the long-term goal of highlighting “**privatised enforcement**” as a political issue on an EU level and internationally.
- ✓ EDRI grew its role in “**thought leadership**” in digital rights advocacy thanks to our regular publications and thorough policy analysis.
- ✓ In October 2013, we **coordinated and published a joint statement** by 19 organisations to call on Parliamentarians to vote for strong data protection rules.
- ✓ Our intensive work of the past two years supporting the **data protection reform** led to an improvement of several important elements of the original European Commission proposal by the European Parliament committee responsible for the dossier.
- ✓ Our tireless efforts contributed to the European Commission publicly recognising **the need to update copyright legislation**.
- ✓ We carried out extensive activities to ensure that all users continue to benefit from equal access to the internet and to raise awareness on the proposed “Telecoms Single Market” Regulation.
- ✓ We published a very popular issue of our “EDRI papers” series on the topic of Net neutrality.
- ✓ To celebrate EDRI's **10th anniversary** in March 2013, we held a meeting with Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission, and our members at the European Parliament. The theme of the meeting was “Mainstreaming digital rights in European policy-making – 10 years on”.



I Our Impact

In this section, we describe where and how we promoted civil rights and fought against arbitrary or disproportionate interferences with the electronic communications of citizens. We coordinated campaigns with member organisations in some policy areas, while taking the lead role in others.

We have mainly focused on the conclusion of many existing dossiers under the current Parliament, such as the data protection reform, and on one new legislative initiative from the European Commission covering the issue of “network neutrality” (the question of whether or not internet companies should be allowed to discriminate between online resources for commercial reasons), which was launched in September 2013.

We have also started to adapt our advocacy activities to the changing political environment in Brussels caused by the preparations for the upcoming European Parliament elections in May 2014 and the new Commission who will take office between September 2014 and (approximately) January 2015.

1.1 Focus of our work

In 2013, we continued to strengthen and focus the activities of the digital rights activist community in Europe and maximise the opportunities to campaign with a single voice.

Our current key focus areas were intellectual property rights, privatised enforcement by internet intermediaries, security and cybercrime, data protection and privacy as well as network neutrality. We also constantly monitored the institutions on the full range of relevant dossiers.

1.1.1 Copyright reform

Legal background

The legislative framework is now quite old, with the most recent relevant legal instrument dating from 2004. Thanks in part to EDRi's work, there is now growing awareness that reforms are needed. The key instruments that are likely to be re-opened are the 2001 Copyright in the Information Society Directive (2001/29/EC) and the 2004 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Enforcement Directive (2004/48/EC).

"We campaign for more efficient access to online content and culture as a means of supporting freedom of communication and reducing the risks to fundamental rights caused by excessive enforcement measures."

Campaigning activities

From January to December 2013, EDRi has been mainly working on five issues linked to copyright.

1. **Copyright reform:** In March 2013, EDRi responded to the European Commission's consultation on the Directive on Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement ([pdf](#)).

On 5 December, the European Commission launched a public consultation on copyright reform. EDRi cooperated with other stakeholders to create of a user-friendly answering guide, as a way of boosting citizen participation in the decision-making process. The guide was published on fixcopyright.eu in January 2014. EDRi is also working on its own answer to the consultation and a joint answer with the copyright 4 creativity (C4C) initiative.

2. **Observatory on infringements of intellectual property rights:** In 2013, EDRi joined the European observatory on infringements of IP rights. The Observatory is a network of experts and specialist stakeholders that aims to provide evidence-based contributions and data to enable EU policy-makers to shape effective IP enforcement policies and to support innovation and creativity. On 28 and 29 October, EDRi participated to its first plenary meeting. EDRi convinced the Observatory to carry out 3 studies:

- a study on the benefits of public domain and open licensing;
 - a study on the reasons why citizens do not respect copyright (this follows a study that was published by the Observatory in 2013 on the perception of IP rights);
 - a study on the perception of citizens on exceptions and limitations to copyright. EDRi is currently in the process of providing the Observatory with a more detailed request for these studies, and is working with the European Consumers Bureau (BEUC) and Wikimedia in order to increase our impact.
3. **Private copying levy:** In most EU countries, citizens need to pay a levy on any equipment that they purchase that has the technical potential to create copies of copyrighted materials. These levies are very inefficient and the amounts paid vary hugely from country to country in Europe. Following years of failed efforts to reform the systems in place, the European Commission asked ex-Commissioner Antonio Vitorino to mediate between the various stakeholders. Following the publication of Vitorino's report ([pdf](#)) in January 2013, the European Parliament decided to propose a Resolution on this topic. EDRi has been active in trying to redress a very unbalanced proposal from the Parliamentarian responsible for that report. EDRi also published its feedback to Vitorino's proposal in a briefing note ([pdf](#)).

"In most EU countries, citizens need to pay a levy on any equipment that they purchase that has the technical potential to create copies of copyrighted materials. These levies are very inefficient and the amounts paid vary hugely from country to country in Europe."

4. **Licences for Europe:** In February 2013, the European Commission launched its "Licences for Europe" project, in which we took part. In the course of 2013, we felt obliged to leave two working groups, due to fundamental concerns regarding the way the process was being managed. For example, the Commission's bizarre position of being both inside and outside the process simultaneously made constructive debate impossible, it was simply not credible and could not produce credible results. We sent two letters ([EDRi-EBLIDA letter, pdf](#) and [EDRi letter, pdf](#)) to the European Commission and then decided to follow only Working Group 2 on User-Generated Content.



5. **Collective Rights Management:** In 2013, EDRi worked extensively on the 'Collective Rights Management Directive' adopted by the European Parliament on the 3rd February. EDRi participated in a number of meetings with Members of the European Parliament and policy advisors in the European Parliament. This includes meetings with the leading Parliamentarians in the committee responsible (JURI) and in the other Committees working on the proposal. EDRi also participated in public events such as the S&D Roundtable (24th April), Green Roundtable (26th February and 8th May) and a panel organised by die Linke (22nd March). The final text improves the management of collective management organisations (CMOs), offers the possibility of granting licenses for non-commercial purposes and makes it easier for online music service providers to obtain licenses for more than one Member State.

"Excessive measures aimed at enforcing intellectual property rights tend both to fail to achieve their intended aim and cause unintended consequences for citizens' freedoms."

Achievements

We continued to maintain pressure for reform and to rebalance the debate away from apparently unending and unquestionably ineffective enforcement measures. Our tireless efforts contributed to the preparations by the Commission to update copyright legislation (the 2001 Copyright in the Information Society Directive, in particular).

- **The European Commission has now admitted the need for a comprehensive copyright reform** and is currently undertaking studies to identify the best approach. It therefore decided to launch a public consultation on 5 December.
- EDRi provided Members of the European Parliament with a short position on private copying levies. **Following the publication of the draft report, EDRi co-wrote a joint statement with nine other stakeholders** ([pdf](#)), calling on Parliamentarians to reject the Ms Castex (Socialists and Democrats, France) report and has been in contact with the Parliamentarians leading on this dossier from the other political groups (“shadow rapporteurs”). The vote on the report in Legal Affairs Committee was repeatedly postponed due to the unwillingness of Ms Castex propose compromises to the other political groups.
- In 2013, EDRi was invited to speak at the European Parliament [round-table on Collective Rights Management](#).

1.1.2 Self-regulation

Legal background

In recent years, a number of initiatives have been launched by policy-makers to persuade private companies to take voluntary measures in order to achieve public policy goals in the digital environment. Particularly in the digital environment, there are increasing efforts to coerce intermediaries to police and punish their own consumers under the flag of “self-regulation”.

In the draft Regulation for a “European single market for electronic communications” published in September 2013, the European Commission included a provision that foresees the possibility for internet access providers to block and filter communications to “prevent or impede serious crime” - with none of the relevant terms defined in the legislation and in clear breach of the Commission’s obligations under the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. This provision gives internet companies open-ended rights to interfere with online communications, in the absence of court orders or even clarity about what offences are targeted.



Campaigning activities

- During the reporting period, we updated the contents of our booklet on the “[Slide from Self-Regulation to Corporate Censorship](#)”. It is now available at <http://edri.org/papers/>.
- We published a leak of the European Commission's [Directorate General for Justice negative opinion](#), showing that the self-regulatory measure proposed by DG CNECT would be in breach of the Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- Throughout 2012 and 2013, EDRi has been involved in ongoing dialogue with the European Commission services responsible for policies related to “notice and action” (notices to website hosting companies of alleged illegal or unauthorised material and actions expected from them). We also wrote to the European Commission President to support the approach taken by that Commission unit responsible for the dossier ([letter pdf](#)). This led to extensive discussion and debate at the highest levels in the Commission and a commitment from Commission Vice-President Reding to monitor such projects more closely in the future ([pdf](#)).
- We also played an active part in the Advisory Board of a European Commission-funded project to develop guidelines for the Information and Communications Technology sector for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This involved long-term involvement in the project, providing guidance and written feedback to the consortium working on the project. The final report of the project was published in the first half of 2013 ([see project team and advisory groups](#)).

Achievements

- Our work has contributed to a raising awareness with regard to the unintended consequences for fundamental rights of ad hoc or arbitrary law enforcement measures implemented by internet companies.
- In February 2013, EDRI was the only organisation that was invited to speak at two panels of the Internet 2013 Conference of the OSCE. We spoke on the subjects of copyright enforcement and “self-regulation” by Internet intermediaries.
- In May 2013, we organised a conference session at the Stockholm Internet Forum – Internet Freedom for Global Development on the characteristics of successful self-regulatory models. The outcome of the session is available at <http://edri.org/sif13>.
- We have raised awareness for the problematic text as proposed by the Commission in the “European single market for electronic communications” Regulation and received positive feedback by all political groups to remove references to “voluntary measures” in the final report of the European Parliament which is due in February 2014.
- On 18 November, we were mentioned in major technology magazine [Wired](#) on Google’s activities to fight online child abuse.

"Particularly in the digital environment, there are increasing efforts to coerce intermediaries to police and punish their own consumers under the flag of “self-regulation”."

1.1.3 Security and cybercrime

Legal background

Data retention: EDRi has been campaigning against the “Data Retention Directive” since its launch in 2005. EDRi has become the voice of European activism on the renewal of this controversial piece of legislation, which requires records to be kept of all electronic communications of all individuals in Europe, in case they may be useful in future for law enforcement purposes. The Directive has been in difficulties of one sort or another since it was adopted - laws transposing the Directive into national law were struck down by courts in several European countries while there were numerous documented abuses of retained data in others. The Directive is now being challenged before the Court of Justice of the European Union. EDRi-member Digital Rights Ireland launched the proceedings, together with the Human Rights Commission Ireland and AK Vorrat Austria. The Court is testing the Directive’s compatibility of the data retention directive with Articles 7, 8 and 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

“EDRi has been campaigning against the “Data Retention Directive” since its launch in 2005. EDRi has become the voice of European activism on the renewal of this controversial piece of legislation.”

SWIFT (TFTP): On 1 August 2010, the so-called Swift agreement came into force, allowing EU citizens’ bank data to be transferred to the USA. Recent revelations have shown that the US National Security Agency gained unauthorised access to the SWIFT data.

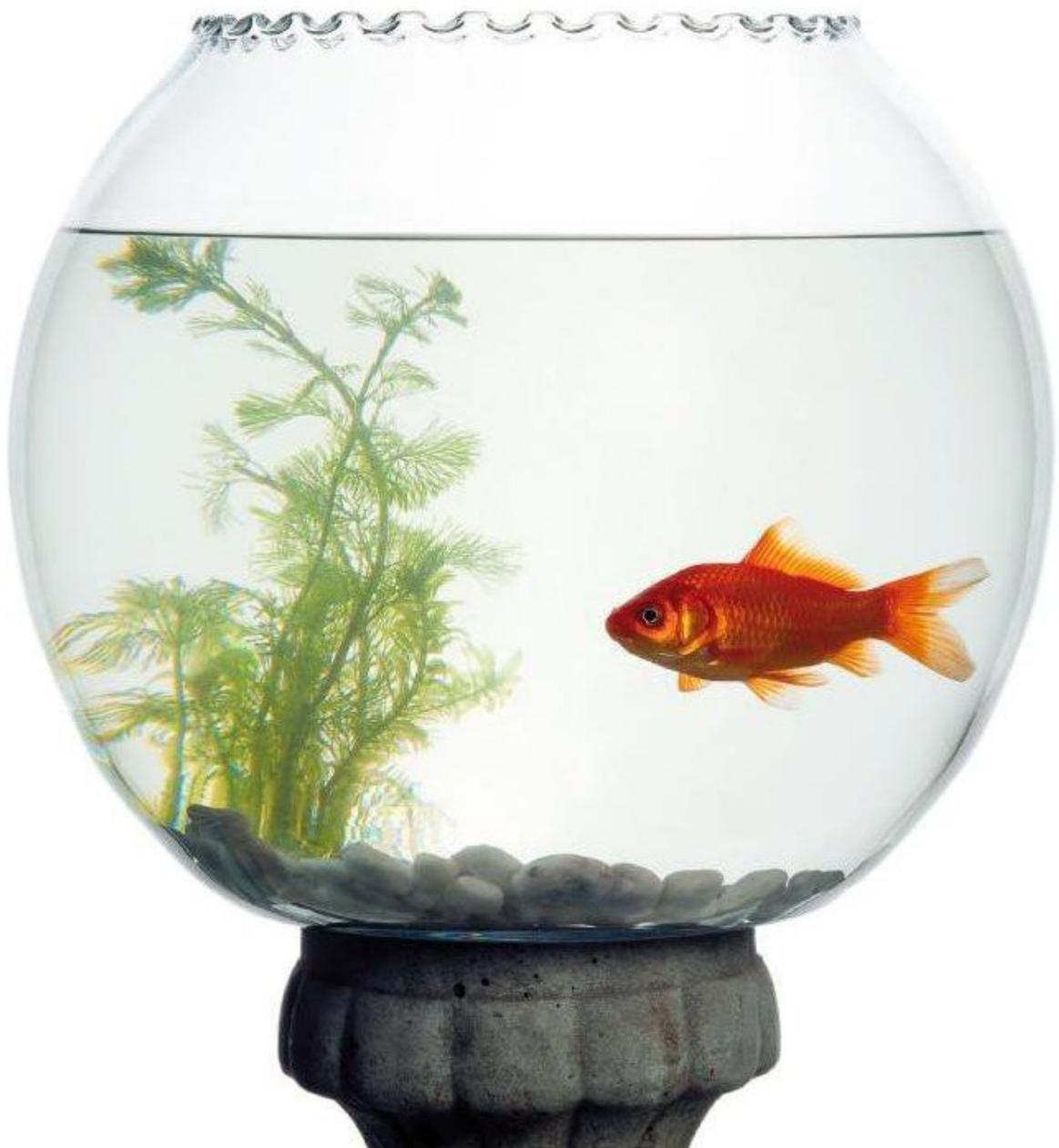
Campaigning activities

- EDRi has continued to be the leading civil society voice on the issue in Europe of long-term storage of data related to innocent citizens.
- EDRi followed the development of the Directive on Attacks Against Computer Systems, from the beginning of the policy-development process until the [final adoption of the legislation in July 2013](#).

- We [provided](#) analysis on the opinion of the Advocate General of the European Court of Justice on the data retention case when it was published on 12 December.

Achievements

- On 23 October, the European Parliament [called for a suspension](#) of the SWIFT agreement, one of EDRI's longstanding demands.
- At the time of writing, it seems quite likely that the **European Court of Justice case on against the Data Retention Directive will succeed** and EDRI is well placed to provide forceful and constructive input for future steps by the European Commission on this point.



1.1.4 Data protection and privacy

Legal background

Data protection is a fundamental right recognised by the primary law of the European Union. During the reporting period, European Digital Rights has been actively supporting, although not uncritically, the European Commission's reform of privacy legislation.

The 1995 Data Protection Directive (1995/46/EC) and the Council Decision on protection of personal data in police and judicial cooperation (2008/977/JHA) are now being updated by the European Institutions in order to protect this fundamental right more efficiently in the digital age. On 21 October, the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee in the European Parliament held a crucial vote on the reform package initially proposed by the European Commission in January 2012. The package is now being negotiated with the Council of the EU. Although there are efforts by certain Member States - namely Germany and the UK - to obstruct negotiations, the heads of state and governments are now committed to a "timely" adoption of the data protection legislation.

"The recent revelations surrounding government surveillance have shown the urgent need for sound, harmonised, well-enforced data protection legislation."

In the context of the "PRISM" and other data collection and exchange scandals, we have highlighted that it is particularly important to limit the collection of data to the minimum necessary and to safeguard the right of individuals to delete their data when it is no longer needed for the purpose for which it was initially collected.

Campaigning activities

- **We have met with policy-makers and officials from the Permanent Representations of several EU Member States** in Brussels, published analysis documents and [issue sheets](#), interacted with the media and have continued to work to ensure that the needs of European citizens are respected, faced with a very well-funded and expansive lobbying campaign against privacy and data protection in Brussels.
- **We continued to coordinate civil society efforts** in a working group (Bits of Freedom, Privacy International, Panoptikon, Open Rights Group and La Quadrature du Net) to support the Regulation, organising working group and strategy meetings. We have pushed for a quick

adoption of the reform package and criticised attempts to delay the urgently needed reform.

- **In January 2013, EDRi organised a free “pre-event”** of the Computers, Privacy and Data Protection (CPDP) conference for civil society, in cooperation with the CPDP, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB-LSTS) and the Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis (FUSL).
- In cooperation with other NGOs, EDRi launched the [“Naked Citizens” campaign](#) on data protection in April 2013. The coalition created a campaigning website and produced a report and press releases in order to raise broader awareness for the data protection reform.
- In June 2013, EDRi participated in the Computers, Freedom and Privacy (CFP) Conference in Washington and **launched, together with Bits of Freedom and major US NGOs, the [Washington Declaration](#)** in protest against eroding privacy and recent surveillance scandals.
- Before the crucial vote held in the LIBE Committee in the European Parliament, we launched a [“contact your MEP”](#) campaign. In addition, EDRi coordinated and published a [joint statement](#) by 19 organisations to call on Parliamentarians to vote for strong data protection rules ([The Inquirer](#), [RT](#)).
- We started charting the positions of Member States in order to **provide our members with the necessary tools to carry out campaigns on a national level** and to react to statements of their representatives in the Council of the European Union.
- **EDRi had a private meeting with US Ambassador William Kennard** to discuss the PRISM programme and the European Regulation and Directive on Data Protection. Prior to the meeting, we wrote a letter to express our disappointment at the behaviour of the United States during the discussions regarding the proposed European Regulation and Directive on data protection.
- US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Sepulveda also came to our office to discuss the same issues.
- **On 11 September, EDRi and the Fundamental Rights European Experts Group (FREE) joined forces to [demand an end to lawless spying on individuals](#)** around the globe and met with the Chair of the European Parliament Civil Liberties Committee. We published detailed analysis of the current European and US legal frameworks and submitted it to all relevant policy-

making and governmental bodies. Subsequently, before the Civil Liberties' Committee first hearing on the subject, we met with the Chairman of the Committee to discuss the issue and gave him a copy of our analysis. ([pdf](#)).

- **In December, we wrote a letter** to stress the importance of the Commission's proposals. It was translated into eight languages and sent to the national Ministries that are part of the Justice and Home Affairs Council.

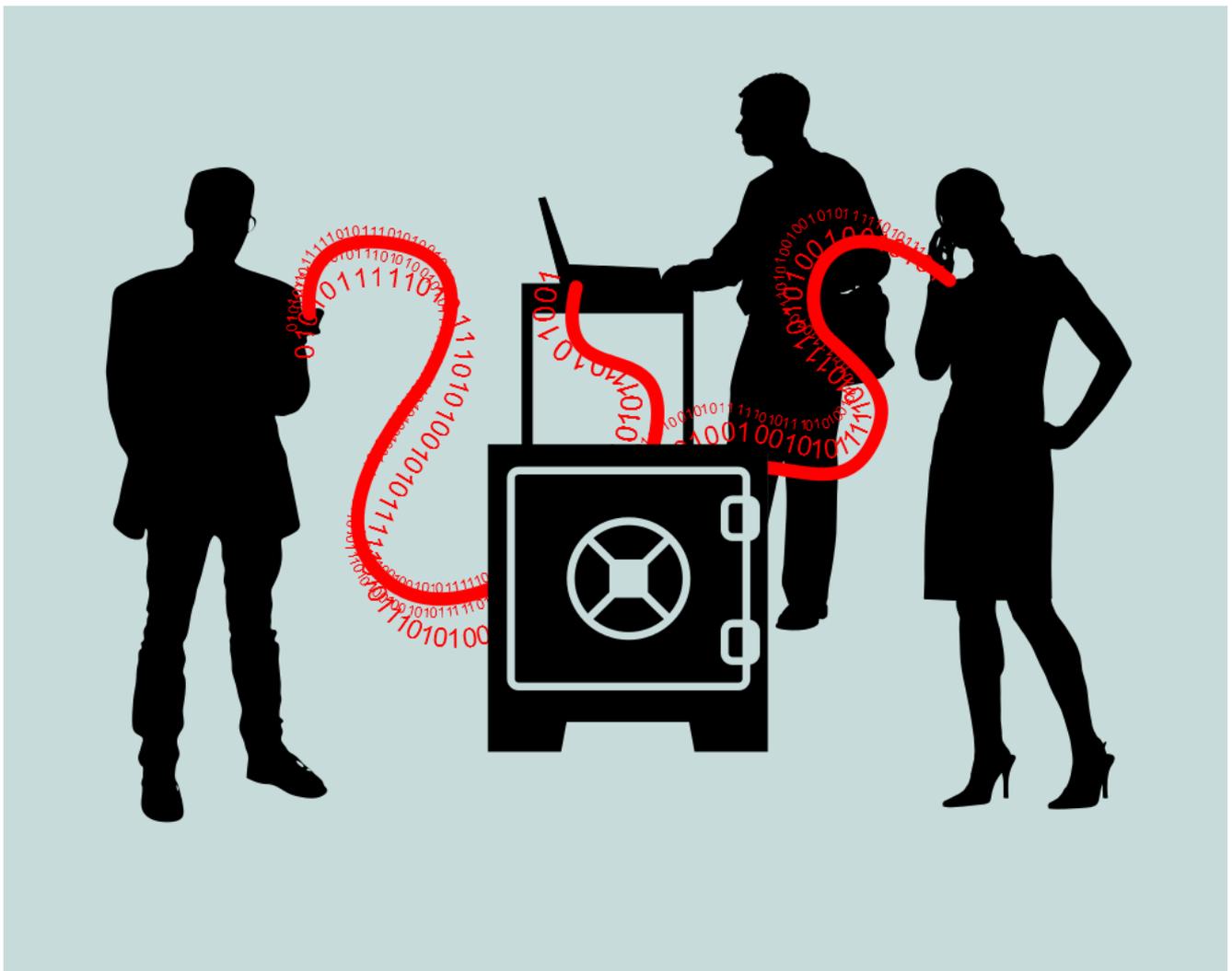


Achievements

- In January 2013, we spoke at the **Computers, Data Protection and Privacy Conference (CPDP)**, a **high level reception** organised by the Republic of Poland on “data protection day”, a seminar of the European Data Protection Supervisor on “self-regulation”, several conferences in the European Parliament and organised a civil society conference on data protection.
- **On 25 April, we organised a press event in the European Parliament** to present the “Naked Citizens” report. Four Members of the European Parliament from four different Member States hosted the event, accepted our report and made short statements on the reform (Members of the European Parliament Josef Weidenholzer (Socialists and Democrats Group, Austria), Baroness Sarah Ludford (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, UK), Judith Sargentini (Greens/EFA Group, Netherlands and Cornelia Ernst (Green United Left Group, Germany)).
- **In October, we published [analysis](#)** of the vote in the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament. Our intensive work of the past two years contributed to an improvement of several important elements of the original Commission proposal in the Committee vote. We are particularly happy that the Committee chose to overturn the Commission’s proposal to allow Member States the scope to exempt themselves from the rules on the profiling of individuals’ personalities. We were the only organisation that asked for this change.
- **On 17 October, EDRi organised a well-attended [screening](#)** of the documentary “Terms and Conditions may apply” in the European Parliament, hosted by Josef Weidenholzer, who is a member of the Civil Liberties Committee of the European Parliament.
- We are in ongoing contact with the European Council, Council of Europe, European Parliament and European Commission as a leading expert voice on the issue of the mass surveillance activities. Several members of the EDRi network also made presentations to the inquiry sessions of the European Parliament’s Civil Liberties Committee on this subject.
- **Our opinions and comments were quoted in several European newspapers and online magazines** (for ex. [Heise](#), [techdirt](#)). In December, our press work and criticism of the delaying tactics in the Council led to a report in a major German newspaper ([Der Spiegel](#)). Furthermore, we were mentioned in the [New York Times](#) and the [Irish Times](#).

We were invited to speak at the following events:

- 4 October: Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) "Prism and Data Protection: An Unresolved Challenge".
- 4 October: Event organised by the Young Liberals in the European Parliament.
- 24 October: We participated in a panel on data protection and IT-Industry lobbying organised by Eva Lichtenberger MEP



1.1.5 Network neutrality

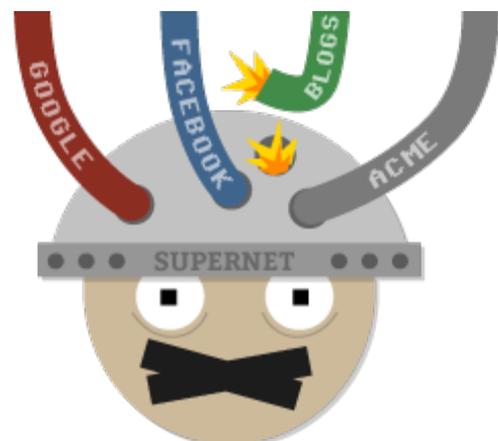
Legal background

"Network neutrality is the principle whereby internet access providers must treat all data equally. This allows everyone to communicate with everyone online, maximising freedom of communication, competition and innovation."

When Vice President Neelie Kroes took office as European Commissioner for the Digital Agenda in 2010, she stated that Net Neutrality would be a central issue. Since then, she launched two consultations in four years and did not finally table a proposal until September 2013, just eight months before the European election. This draft Regulation for a "European single market for electronic communications" is a particularly important piece of legislation since, as a Regulation (unlike a Directive) it would become directly applicable law in all Members States.

Campaigning activities

- We carried out several activities to raise awareness on this issue, [published analysis of the proposed legislation](#) and [amendments](#) and met with policy makers from a range of political groups. Our key analysis documents can be found here: <http://edri.org/net-neutrality-primary-document-source/>.
- We published FAQ for citizens on the draft Regulation ([pdf](#)).
- We published an info-graphic to explain the process in Parliament for citizens (see [blogpost](#)).



- We launched a portal for our “Save The Internet” campaign, in cooperation with EDRI-members Bits of Freedom, IFNF, Digitale Gesellschaft and observer member La Quadrature du Net: <http://savetheinternet.eu>. The portal enables citizens to contact their elected representatives and receive up-to-date information about the progress of the proposal.
- We organised a workshop on net neutrality at the [30c3 conference](#) in Hamburg, on 29 December.

A red graphic with a white Wi-Fi symbol at the top center. Below it, the text "SAVE THE INTERNET" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath that, in smaller white text, it says "Your freedom online is threatened by an EU proposal. The fight for an open Internet is happening right now in Brussels." Below this is the phrase "TAKE ACTION!" in bold white capital letters. At the bottom, there are three white icons with red text: an envelope icon for "E-MAIL your parliamentarian", a telephone handset icon for "CALL your parliamentarian", and a fax machine icon for "FAX your parliamentarian".

SAVE THE INTERNET

Your freedom online is threatened by an EU proposal.
The fight for an open Internet is happening right now in Brussels.

TAKE ACTION!

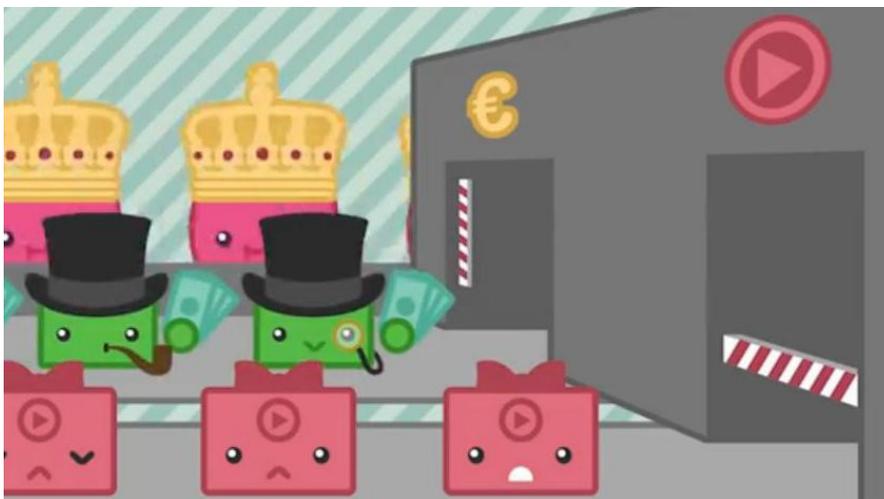
 **E-MAIL**
your parliamentarian

 **CALL**
your parliamentarian

 **FAX**
your parliamentarian

Achievements

- We worked with the European Consumers' Bureau (BEUC) to release a [joint letter by 80 civil rights and consumer protection organisations](#) arguing for a legislative underpinning for the concept of network neutrality.
- We helped coordinate the [SaveTheInternet.eu](#) campaign where interested citizens can find information on the legislative proposal and a guide on how to contact their representatives.
- 26 September: We participated in a round-table discussion [organised by MEP Schaake](#) (ALDE, NL).
- 4 December: We were invited to speak at a hearing of the EPP, the biggest political group of the European Parliament ([EPP press release](#)).
- We published a booklet on Net Neutrality ([pdf](#)) which was printed and distributed in the European Parliament to all relevant Parliamentarians that are now deciding on this issue.
- We contributed to the Council of Europe's development of a [model law](#) and the [IGF's dynamic coalition](#).
- Our comments were mentioned in numerous major press outlets, such as [Die Zeit](#), [NetworkedWorld](#), [Tagesschau](#), [Der Spiegel](#), [NDR](#).



1.1.6 WePromise.eu: European election 2014

In the second half of 2013, we developed a comprehensive project management plan for our European Parliament (WePromise.eu) project. The idea originated at the General Assembly 2013 and will be a unique opportunity for our national members and for the Brussels office to campaign for a positive agenda for protection of civil rights in the online environment. It aims to give the wider civil digital rights community a common point of reference for the next five years.

"Candidates agree to support at "charter" of 10 key digital rights principles, while voters are asked to sign up to promise to vote in the elections for a candidate that has signed the Charter."

The project works as a "two-sided promise". Candidates agree to support at "charter" of 10 key digital rights principles, while voters are asked to sign up to promise to vote in the elections for a candidate that has signed the Charter. This will allow voters to help push digital rights onto the agenda of the elections and raise the profile of our issues.

The preparatory work proved to be quite resource intensive, as we were coordinating translations, researched databases containing all electoral districts and postal codes and cities in every EU country, writing grant applications and started networking among a diverse group of possible partner organisations (student organisations, youth wings of political parties, other digital rights NGOs, etc). In December, we successfully attracted project funding by the Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries (CENTR) and .SE (The Internet Infrastructure Foundation) and OSF.

WE PROMISE.eu

About The Charter of Digital Rights Contact Partners EN

Vote for your digital rights

Make a promise to vote in the European election, which will take place between 22 and 23 May 2014! Find out if candidates from your country have signed on and promise to vote.

Search by City, ZIP Code or District

Promise to vote for any candidate who supports the 10 point Charter of Digital Rights.

Name E-mail Country Promise to vote

I wish to receive campaign updates

1.1.7 Other activities

- On 9 October, we coordinated and [published an open letter](#) by 23 organisations in **support of Edward Snowden's nomination for the Sakharov prize.**
- **TTIP/ TAFTA:** We are regularly attending the European Commission's civil society briefings on the negotiations of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and published a "Lobbyists Charter" in order to raise awareness for the ISDS chapter of the planned agreement between the EU and the USA.

II Achieving our goals

1.2.1 Providing policy makers with expert analysis

EDRi aims at defending and promoting fundamental rights at the earliest possible stage of the EU decision-making processes. As explained in the previous chapter, during the reporting period civil and human rights in the information society were of significance in various policy initiatives in Brussels, both in legislative and non-legislative dossiers launched by various parts of the European institutions.

Due to the increasing societal impact of the development of information and communication technologies, the organisation frequently engaged with the EU institutions and was invited to speak at conferences, for instance:

- We spoke at a “European Voice” newspaper event on [privacy reform](#).
- We spoke at the “[What price privacy](#)” event organised by the The Economist.
- We concluded a project (as advisory board member) with European Commission on [human rights standards for business](#).
- We spoke at the Computers, Data Protection and Privacy Conference ([programme, pdf](#)).
- We participated in a North-Rhine Westphalia regional parliament [debate on data protection](#)
- We spoke at the [Interparliamentary Hearing on Data Protection](#).
- We spoke at the a debate in the regional parliament of North-Rhine Westphalia on data protection.
- We participated in the Stockholm Internet Forum (event [website](#)).

In 2012, we published our guide for policy-makers "How the Internet works", which is our most popular booklet. As of December 2013, it was downloaded around 157,000 times translated into German and Italian and delivered to all German and Italian parliamentarians. During the reporting

"We have provided a platform for our national members organisations, individual observers and activists via specific online working groups on the topics of net neutrality, data protection and copyright issues."

period, it was translated into Spanish and Dutch and, as part of a project to support policy development in Belarus, all of our booklets are now also being translated into Belarusian.

EDRi regularly responds to public consultations by the European Commission. In 2013, we responded to six consultations launched by the European institutions. These responses included answering the European Commission's public consultation on internet governance (13 November, [response](#)) and to the public consultation on the Green Paper "Preparing for a Fully Converged Audiovisual World: Growth, Creation and Value" (15 October, [pdf](#)). An overview of the public consultations that EDRi responded to can be found in this [blogpost](#).

EDRi also participates in expert working groups and consultations organised by the European institutions, such as several working group meetings on "Notice and Action". Moreover, the Brussels office had numerous individual meetings with Commission officials and cabinet staff, Parliamentarians, European Parliament staff, Permanent Representations of European Member States, the European Council and officials from the EU Data Protection Supervisor's Office.

2.2 Leveraging the power of and providing a platform for national members

The move to the bigger office in October 2012 allowed a better collaboration among the staff members and the hosting of EDRI's members whenever they travel to Brussels.

During the General Assembly 2013, we welcomed three new members: Alternative Informatics Association, Modern Poland Foundation, Initiative fur Netzfreiheit from Austria as well as two new observers: Hauke Gierow representing the German chapter of Reporters without Borders and Siim Tuisk who is member of the Estonian chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC). The GA was followed by celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the organisation which we used in order to organise an event with Vice-President Reding to mark the occasion.

Besides the many conferences and hearings organised by the European institutions in which EDRI staff regularly participate, the Brussels office facilitated the participation of several member organisations coming from a variety of European countries.

2.3. Ensuring that European citizens' interests are reflected in the global debate

EDRI sought to be more involved in the work of international bodies such as the United Nations, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). We spoke in two panels of the "[Internet 2013](#)" Conference of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In addition, EDRI's Executive Director participated in Financial Times / Telecom Italia event for the top 50 global Internet thought leaders on "Rethinking the Internet".

In 2013, we participated in the conference "[Transparency to protect Internet freedom: a shared commitment](#)" from 24 to 25 September in Strasbourg, the [OSCE Regional consultation on freedom of expression on the Internet on 25-26 October in Kotor](#), the [Conference of Council of Europe Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society](#) from 7 to 8 November in Belgrade and the meeting of the [Steering Committee on Media and Information Society](#) on 5 December in Strasbourg.

As a result of a Council of Europe conference in May 2013 on the topic of net neutrality, we actively participated in the [Dynamic Coalition of the Internet Governance Forum](#), which is organised under the auspices of the United Nations. We have also been nominated to take part in the Internet committee of the Steering Committee on Media and the Information Society of the Council of Europe.

2.4 Publications

Our fortnightly newsletter, the “EDRi-gram”, and our website are becoming extremely influential. Since 2003, the “EDRi-gram” focuses on digital civil rights in Europe. The topics cover EU-level issues, national subjects from European countries and sometimes guest editorials. The full list of EDRi-gram from 2003 onwards is available on our website at <http://edri.org/newsletters/>.

We have been cited in a wide range of national and EU-level press including the [European Voice](#), [Der Spiegel](#), the [Financial Times](#), the [EU Observer](#), [Le Monde](#), [El Pais](#) and the [Huffington Post](#).

Moreover, our [EDRi Papers](#) series has become far more successful than was envisaged when the concept was launched. In 2013, the most popular paper was “How the Internet works” which is still being downloaded between five and ten thousand times per month, two years after it was originally published. All booklets are now being translated into Belarusian, in order to support a policy-development project in Belarus.

In 2013, we published three papers:

“**Copyright – challenges of the digital era**” explains some of the ways in which current copyright law has failed to keep pace with technology, leading to a reduction in the credibility of the legal framework among citizens. It was downloaded 21,000 times from January to December 2013. Paper copies have been printed for distribution in the European Parliament and relevant events.

“**An introduction to data protection**” provides an introductory guide to key concepts of data protection. The main target audience of the publication are policy-makers. Paper copies were distributed to European Parliamentarians working on the review of the European data protection framework. From January to December 2013, it was downloaded over 42,000 times.

“**Net neutrality**” explains the meaning and importance of the founding principle of the Internet. It gives insight into the reasons for violations of network neutrality and the consequences for fundamental rights. On average, the booklet is being downloaded a thousand times per month. Printed copies have been distributed in the European Parliament to the relevant Committees that are currently debating the issue.

We also continued to publish shorter documents on policy issues on a regular basis in order to raise awareness among the broader public and to brief policy makers, such as a series of [data protection issue sheets](#) or FAQs on net neutrality ([pdf](#)).



III Transparency report

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