

Monday, 3 December 2007

Registration starting at 12:00 h

13:30 h Opening Address and Introduction: Dr. Karl-Heinz Neumann, WIK, Germany

13:40 h Session I Keynote Address: Eli Noam, Columbia University, USA

14:30 h Session II Overview and Elements of Network Neutrality

There has been much talk about Network Neutrality in the United States, much of which has been spin, hype and hyperbole. However, there has been little rigorous, detailed analysis. Are the perils and threats of deviations from Network Neutrality truly imminent, or merely hypothetical? This panel will try to cut through the rhetoric and provide a clear, unbiased view of the facts, issues and challenges.

- Prof. Ingo Vogelsang, Boston University, USA
- J. Scott Marcus, WIK, Germany

16:00 h Break

16:30 h Session III Fixed Line Network Neutrality

In August 2005, the U.S. FCC addressed wireline Network Neutrality when it published a non-binding policy statement concerning the "open and interconnected Internet." Since then, the FCC has dealt with Network Neutrality issues in the context of the Madison River consent decree, and in its review of the AT&T-SBC merger. How can Network Neutrality principles be implemented in the real world? What does this experience tell us about the relationships among carriers, service providers, content and end-users? Have Network Neutrality measures been effective in the U.S.? What is their relevance for Europe?

Chair: Prof. Stanford Levin

- Dennis Weller, Verizon, USA
- Thilo Salmon, SIPGate, UK
- Dr. Klaus Müller, Deutsche Telekom, Germany
- Gerd Eickers, QSC / VATM, Germany

18:30 h End of first day of conference

20:00 h Social Event

Tuesday, 4 December 2007

08:30 h Session IV Wireless Network Neutrality

Only recently, the Network Neutrality debate has expanded to include wireless networks. In the U.S., the FCC will require winning bidders in its upcoming 700 MHz auction to agree to allow end-users to connect any device or to operate any software over the network. Placing these requirements on the auction pose at least some risk of distorting the auction results. Will these openness requirements enable new applications which spur demand for 3G networks, or will they chill auction participation and carrier investment? To what extent do the differences between wireline and wireless networks (i.e., lower capacity, interference concerns and greater control over terminal devices) a factor in shaping different form of neutrality for wireless.

Chair: Kenneth R. Carter, WIK

- Richard Feasey, Vodafone Group, UK
- Rob Frieden, Penn State University, USA
- Reinhard Waehlen, Motorola, Germany

10:00 h Break

10:30 h Session V The Economics of Network Neutrality

How can one distinguish between welfare-enhancing service differentiation, versus anticompetitive discrimination? How can regulators guard against anticompetitive discrimination *ex ante*? Should they? Will network operators be able and willing to favour access to affiliated content

and applications, and to block or disfavour access to unaffiliated content? To what extent will competitive forces mitigate the risk of blockage? Network Neutrality regulations seek to guard against many threats, including attempts on the part of network operators to impose supracompetitive charges on content providers who are not their customers for access to end-users. How can the regulator determine whether the prices charged by network operators are just and reasonable, given that these are two-sided markets which are heavily affected by externalities? In this panel, we evaluate the recent prospective developments in light of economic theory.

Chair: Prof. Arnold Picot, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

- Simon Wilkie, University of Southern California, USA
- Prof. Dr. Walter Brenner, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
- Jonathan Cave, RAND Europe, UK

12:00 h Lunch

13:00 h **Session VI Content and Pluralism**

Advocates of Network Neutrality regulation argue that without regulatory protections, network operators would have the power to select what people see and hear. How is this different from the case of conventional media? Conversely, opponents of Network Neutrality regulation assert that without the ability to price discriminate, network operators would not be able to recoup their sunk investments. How is this different from traditional telephony? What are the real implications of tiered service networks for society? What is the difference between discrimination and product differentiation? To what extent should network operators be allowed to restrict the devices which can be attached to and the applications which can be run over their networks?

Chair: Yves Gassot, IDATE

- Prof. Dr. Bernd Holznagel, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany
- Huey S. Tan, Skype, UK
- Andrew McLaughlin, Google, USA
- Georg Merdian, Kabel Deutschland

15:00 h Break

15:30 h **Session VII Regulation & Policy**

The debate concerning Network Neutrality comes at a time when the U.S. has deregulated access to the last mile. What rules have worked in the U.S. and Japan? What rules will work in Europe? Should the question of Network Neutrality be treated on the European level or should Member States settle the question? Is the European regulatory framework future-proof enough to handle Network Neutrality?

Chair: J. Scott Marcus, WIK

- Yasu Taniwaki, Director of Telecommunications Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan
- Iris Henseler-Unger, BNetzA, Germany
- Patrick J. DeGraba, Federal Trade Commission, USA

17:00 h **Session VIII The Way Forward: Round Table Discussion**

In a wrap-up session, we will ask a number of senior experts to summarize the results of the conference from their respective perspectives. Where do the threats for Network Neutrality lie, and what the consumer welfare losses which accompany an offence against Network Neutrality? Do unbundling requirements in Europe obviate the need for Network Neutrality regulations? Is this a fruitful area for further study, or can today's rules be applied to obtain tomorrow's policy objectives? If fruitful, what might be the next steps? What measures, if any, might be actionable today? What works well and what works poorly? What are the promises and pitfalls for Network Neutrality in the NGN world? How can advertising-supported content exist in a purely open network? How do we handle security and network management concerns?

Chair: Dr. Karl-Heinz Neumann, WIK

- Ferenc Bánhidi, Board Member, National Communications Authority, Hungary
- Richard Cawley, European Commission, Belgium
- Pierre Larouche, Tilburg University, Netherlands

18:30 h Reception