

“Beyond Dubai: A new global Agenda for the Internet”. Conclusions of the Presidency

The International Conference on Telecommunications (WCIT) ITU (International Telecommunication Union), that was held last December in Dubai, marked a very important moment of analysis on many complex issues that affect the future of telecommunications and Internet.

As during the WCIT different positions have emerged and in some cases even conflicts between the governments representatives, it is important to recognize the merits of the debate that cropped up and the value of all the ideas that have contributed to a common study on what should be the role of public authorities in the governance of Internet and the development of networks for the future of digital economy in the world.

In particular, the global transition to a system of broadband networks, both fixed and mobile, which made and shall make possible the development of Internet and consequently the huge benefits that shall be derived, requires that the "after Dubai" is not limited to the awareness of the differences that emerged but gives way to a common path, and the possible expansion (multi-stakeholder), to a new reflection. All interested parties, governments, businesses and civil society, must examine how to ensure the sustainability of the development model of the network, particularly in focus of the growing need for massive investment in broadband networks and ultra. An issue that has priority on the political agenda of many countries and the European Union.

It is, therefore, essential that the exchange of ideas that characterized the WCIT is revived and enriched by a new phase of the debate, for both European and global situation, on crucial issues such as the role of ICTs for social and economic development, the spread of infrastructure telecommunications in developing countries, the effective management of an increasing volume of data, the need for investment in next generation networks, the protection of citizens' privacy and of online data, the effective protection of intellectual property rights, the ability of companies to manage better traffic on the networks for the benefit of quality services and, simultaneously, the sound development of an industry that is crucial to the process of technological innovation.

To this end, it is essential that creativity and innovation be adequately protected also on the net within the framework of a delicate process aiming at balancing a free and unregulated access to information and an effective protection of intellectual property rights. The set of measures for the protection of these rights can be further enlarged if the Internet potential is fully and responsibly harnessed.

We therefore wish that institutions, private sector, universities and civil society share their commitment to examine how the national, European and international instruments can enhance the outcome of the Conference of Dubai, identifying, through cooperation and constructive criticism, shared means to ensure that Internet continues to be a powerful tool for economic growth and development of society and is used legally and responsibly.