



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from:	PRESIDENCY
to:	COUNCIL
Subject:	Ministerial meeting EU-Latin America and Caribbean Countries: "Digital Content for a Digital Society" (Segovia, La Granja de San Ildefonso, 14-16 March 2010) - Information from the Presidency

1. On March 14th - 16th, 2010, the 5th European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean Ministerial Forum on the Information Society took place in La Granja de San Ildefonso (Spain). This event, organized with the support of the European Commission and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), took place in the context of the preparatory activities for the Madrid EU-LAC Summit of May 18, 2010. A Declaration summing-up the main conclusions of this Forum was adopted as a contribution to the Madrid Summit.

Under the title "*Digital Content for a Digital Society*", the Forum took stock of the public policies implemented in the last few years and debated the needs and priorities of future digital agendas adapted to the specificities of each region that can contribute to reduce the digital divide and promote economic growth.

2. The Ministerial declaration approved by the Forum in annexed to this document. It reaffirmed the importance of the ICT's contribution towards development, economic growth, social inclusion and job creation as well as to improving quality of life. It also noted the possibilities of ICT to contribute to improving quality of life in areas such as education, culture, health, e-administration, reduction of risks, prevention of disasters, and protection of the environment.

The declaration also recalled the importance of creating a trustworthy, transparent and non-discriminatory legislative, regulatory and policy environment conducive to investment, innovation and choice for consumers. Moreover, it highlighted the need for ICT to be an integral part of the policy dialogue between both regions concerned, maintaining and increasing collaboration and cooperation in the area of the Information Society.

The declaration also confirmed points of agreement and cooperation in the following areas:

1. On the strategic plans and development of Information Society
2. On the regulation of the ICT Sector and collaboration in this area
3. On the access to and use of the Internet
4. On the Internet's privacy, reliability and security
5. On the contents
6. On the Government and Public Administrations on the Internet
7. On appraisal and benchmarking
8. On Internet governance.

DECLARATION OF LA GRANJA

The ministers and heads of delegation of the European Union, Latin American and Caribbean countries and the European Commission, present at the 5th European Union (EU) — Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Ministerial Forum on the Information Society, held on 14 and 15 March 2010 at La Granja de San Ildefonso, Spain:

- i. Recalling that this 5th Forum forms part of the preparation for the EU-LAC Heads of State and Government Summit, to be held in Madrid (Spain), on 17 and 18 May, 2010;
- ii. Highlighting that this 5th Ministerial Forum seeks to intensify the dialogue on the Information Society between these regions, in line with the previous meetings held in Seville in 2002, in Lima in 2003, in Rio de Janeiro in 2004, and in Lisbon in 2006;
- iii. Stressing that this Forum takes place at a key time for the preparation of new strategies in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) to provide continuity for and boost the work carried out under the eLAC2010 Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean, the European Union's i2010 strategy, and an ever-growing number of national strategies;
- iv. Reaffirming the importance of the ICT's contribution towards development, economic growth, social inclusion and job creation, as well as their possible role in creating a more competitive, sustainable and green economy;
- v. Recalling Resolution 60/252 on the World Summit on the Information Society adopted by the United Nations General Assembly of the 27th of April 2006 that acknowledged the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition to benefit fully from the potential of ICT;
- vi. Acknowledging that the scope of ICT policy should be incorporated into other policies, in order to maximise the ICT's contribution towards attaining a more competitive, innovative, inclusive, pluralistic, green and open knowledge society;
- vii. Recognising the usefulness of adopting ICT¹ strategies that foster the deployment of next generation networks, both fixed and mobile, as well as the availability of tools, applications and advanced services for citizens and enterprises, and strategies that foster the capacity of users to use them;
- viii. Taking into consideration the possibilities of ICT to contribute to the well-being and quality of life of the population in fields such as education, culture, health, e-administration, employment and energy efficiency, as well as in the reduction of risks, the prevention of disasters and the protection of the environment;

¹ In the case of Costa Rica, "ICT" will be replaced by "telecommunications" in the following points: vii, viii, 7,9, 13, 16 and 31.

- ix. Recognising the central role of knowledge and of investments in education, science, services, technology and innovation to promote economic growth, sustainable development and social inclusion, and the importance of maintaining between the two regions a friendly environment where investments in such areas could be promoted and sustained;
- x. Recalling that there are differences between the two regions and inside each of them in terms of development levels and challenges of the Information Society;
- xi. Acknowledging the challenges that derive from the development and use of these new technologies for security and privacy in the context of a democratic State and the rule of Law;
- xii. Recognising the importance of developing other models that also guarantee respect for users', authors' and content distributors' rights and, at the same time, enable new models for content distribution to emerge within a digital economy;
- xiii. Taking into account that the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was set up in response to the discussions of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and that the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, calls for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues;
- xiv. Recalling the importance of creating a trustworthy, transparent and non discriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment, as is emphasised in paragraph 96 of the Tunis Agenda;
- xv. Observing that, going beyond development policy, ICTs should form an integral part of the policy dialogue between both regions as a means of favouring awareness of the specificities, as well as the exchange and the analysis of practices and the experience acquired in the implementation of national and regional plans;
- xvi. Recognising that the European Union Member States consider that competitive and open markets have encouraged investment, innovation and consumer choice in the European Union;

In this context:

[On the strategic plans and development or the Information Society]

1. We note that preparing a new Information Society strategy is a priority for the European Union, in order to build on the work carried out under the i2010 initiative, with the focus on constructing a pro-competitive framework for electronic communications, promoting audio-visual services, developing electronic government and public services, reinforcing ICT innovation and research and building an inclusive Information Society;

2. We highlight the progress made in the LAC, as a result of, among other things, cooperation in the framework of the eLAC2007 Regional Plan, the importance of its continuity via the ELAC2010 Regional Action Plan, as well as the appropriateness of the current regional priority redefinition process, which seeks to readjust the goals of the Regional Action Plan;
3. We reaffirm our interest in continuing and intensifying the dialogue and co-operation in the preparation, monitoring and implementation of current and any future strategies in the area of the Information Society, notably carrying out and disseminating studies, exchanging experiences, through joint initiatives, participation of experts and those responsible for policies in events in both regions and monitoring and evaluation of the activities undertaken;
4. We welcome the launch of the second stage of the European Commission's @LIS (Alliance for the Information Society) programme for co-operation between the European Union and Latin America, highlighting the successful results obtained in the first phase of the programme. We note with satisfaction the continued support to Red CLARA (Latin-American Cooperation of Advanced Networks) and its interconnection to GEANT. We consider that it is important to deepen the results of the first and second stage of the @LIS programme to reinforce the principles enshrined in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society against the background of the Millennium Development Goals established for 2015 and, therefore, maintain the presence of ICT in the Official Development Assistance (ODA) strategies;
5. We highlight that the revision of the current European Investment Bank's (EIB) Asia and Latin mandate (ALA IV) constitutes an opportunity to support the fight against the digital divide, a better use of ICT and increased access and universal service for the citizens to improve their quality of life and increase growth opportunities;
6. We underline the importance of the promotion of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms and instruments for cooperation to guarantee a proper implementation of programmes and projects designed to foster the Information Society in the fields of content development and the adoption of technology, as well as universal service and access;
7. We recognise the importance of strengthening ICT infrastructures, in particular broadband, and developing new services and applications. It is important that networks and infrastructures have enough capacity and reliability to provide support in case of disasters. To this end public policies should promote an investment-friendly environment and a level playing field in the access by all citizens to ICTs, through those mechanisms better adapted to each situation;
8. We acknowledge its strategic nature and therefore agree to work together for the establishment of modern and direct high capacity connections between regional research networks, in order to integrate projects and joint initiatives in the field of science, technology and innovation, within Latin-America and the Caribbean and the European Union, that could also benefit the African continent;

9. We recognise the major contribution of ICT, and in particular of the Future Internet, for energy sustainability, environmental protection, and smart transport systems, as well as the importance to reinforce our cooperation this area;

[On regulation of the ICT sector and collaboration in this area]

10. We are pleased at the co-operation between Latin American and European regulators demonstrated by the adoption of a Joint Declaration in Capri (Italy) in October 2009 at the 8th IRG-REGULATEL summit hosted by the Italian regulator, AGCOM, and their decision to launch a work programme focused on some key areas of common interest. We welcome our regulators' commitment to intensify mutual collaboration — by means, inter alia, of the exchange of experts and organisation of common regulatory forums — and welcome the renewed support to this co-operation in the second phase of the @LIS Programme of the European Commission;
11. We underline the importance of adapting the regulation models for the sector to take into consideration the new conditions of technological convergence of networks, products and services, respect the principle of technological neutrality and foster a competitive environment to promote the sector's rapid development, the incorporation of new technologies, the investment in network deployment, and improve access services at reasonable prices;
12. We highlight the importance of introducing modern and efficient radio spectrum management policies that make it possible to meet the growing demand for the development and provision of wireless services for most of the population;
13. We note the role of Administrations in promoting increasing levels of universal access and services to ICT, making possible that their benefits reach all citizens, combating digital exclusion for social or geographical reasons and guaranteeing all users a balanced set of rights in their relations with network operators and service suppliers;

[On access to and use of the Internet]

14. We support the efforts made to universalise the access to and use of broadband, implementing active public policy and developing a set of mechanisms for the participation of public and private actors, and underline the need to intensify the dialogue and co-operation in the preparation and implementation of policies in this field;
15. We express our desire to promote co-operation to build capacities and increase literacy for the adoption and assimilation of ICT by local communities and citizens, as well as to use them to contribute to the development and improvement of the quality of life of people;
16. We highlight the need to promote greater access to and use of ICTs in the production sector, particularly among micro, small and medium enterprises and in rural areas, within the frameworks of the programmes designed to improve competitiveness and strengthen the innovative capacity of these enterprises;

[On the Internet's privacy, reliability and security]

17. We confirm that Internet security and reliability is essential for our economies and societies to operate properly. We support international co-operation between both regions in this area to foster actions that increase on-line security and protect the privacy of communications and information;
18. We point out that the development of the Internet and wireless technologies offers new possibilities and provides a variety of benefits for children and young people. However, despite the fact that they are often expert users of online technologies, they may not be mature enough to detect contents harmful towards their sound development and possible risks and their consequences. Therefore, there is a need to provide more information to children, parents and teachers, together with the tools to mitigate these risks and to foster R&D for developing information systems and network security:
 1. We need to increase and update our knowledge regarding the use minors make of the new media and the risks they may come up against;
 2. Due to the global nature of the Internet, international co-operation is needed in order to guarantee the maximum effectiveness and results of the measures taken;
19. Achieving a more secure and reliable online environment, particularly, for Internet end users in questions such as paedophilia and drugs trafficking is a responsibility that is shared among those entrusted with policy design, the authorities responsible for enforcing the law, the private sector, schools and civil society;

[On the contents]

20. We consider that cultural and linguistic diversity must be promoted in line with the Unesco Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions and we will foster the development, diffusion, use and preservation of local digital content and services to develop a multicultural presence of the Net;
21. We highlight the importance of supporting the creation of digital skills and capacities to foster the production of quality digital content and services for different platforms such as digital television, radio and cinema, mobile phones, videogames, computers, Internet and convergent media;
22. We highlight the opportunities that the Internet provides for users to create and distribute digital content and services, as well as the impact that this has on the content industry and in how citizens, enterprises and governments interact, apart from its contribution towards the development of local cultures;
23. We emphasise that social networks and other Internet services often referred to as the Web 2.0 could create great opportunities;

24. We consider that the access to digital content and services is an opportunity to promote social, cultural and economic development and, to achieve this, we will support the design of innovative solutions that foster the production, diffusion, preservation and use of digital content and services and are attractive for users and for digital content producers. Solutions should be based on a fair balance between the rights of privacy, freedom of expression and intellectual property rights;
25. We welcome the use of ICT to improve educational programmes and the need to develop those digital skills needed by children;
26. We believe that it is necessary to foster the creation and the strengthening of the capacities and skills of citizens to use ICT and to integrate content, services, information and knowledge that contribute to their development as human beings and welfare;
27. We underline the need to foster co-operation in the field of digital content, namely to build-up expertise in this area and to create production centres for interactive and interoperable digital content and services;

[On the Government and Public Administrations on the Internet]

28. We welcome the use of ICTs by Governments to increase the efficiency, transparency, openness and the participation of their administrations and, in order to promote its use to achieve more accessible and closer government, we declare our interest to intensify dialogue and co-operation in the preparation and implementation of strategies in this field;
29. We encourage the use by public administrations and governmental entities of the capacities that ICT offer to increase the participation of citizens and companies in public life and their co-operation in the design and implementation of public services more effective and better adapted to the needs of citizens;
30. We acknowledge as a priority goal the increase of broadband access, take-up and speed, since these are pre-conditions for the effectiveness of electronic government policies and the provision of public digital services;
31. We recognise the opportunities provided by the ICT for achieving greater healthcare coverage and quality, as well as more efficient management of the healthcare systems through deployment of networking infrastructure, interoperability of systems used, and implementation of applications for the provision of remote services through different platforms;
32. We stress the importance of the application of ICT² in the Administration of Justice and the benefits derived from its interconnection and interoperability with the remaining eGovernment applications;

² In the case of Costa Rica, "ICT" will be replaced by "ICT and telecommunications" in points 32 and 37.

33. We underline the importance of using standards that contribute to the interoperability of the solutions developed by governments to provide their citizens with digital services and enable relations between them and with enterprises;
34. We promote policies whereby governments and governmental entities make available to the society, in readily accessible form, information and data of public interest, which can be used by third parties to create new services for citizens and businesses;
35. We underline the importance of developing and adjusting regulations in areas of transparency and data privacy, to enable a more secure exchange of public information;
36. We emphasize the need for initiatives that enhance public awareness about eGovernment services and its use, and improve progressively its quality, to foster its adoption by society;

[On appraisal and benchmarking]

37. We recognise the need to have indicators, methods and instruments, jointly developed and validated, adaptable to the technological evolution and the use of these technologies by citizens, enterprises and administrators that make it possible to obtain reliable and comparable measurements of the use and impact of ICT on economic development and social well-being;

[On Internet governance]

38. We welcome the creation of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in the follow up to the World Summit on the Information Society;
39. We salute the efforts deployed by United Nations and by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), to create spaces for reflection and discussion on ICT and the elements that must be part of Internet governance, in order to eliminate the digital divide and create a fairer Information and Knowledge Society. We value the multi-sectoral and non-binding nature of the IGF and support its continuation for another period of five years, adopting mechanisms that foster a balanced representation between developed and developing countries in all sectors and that facilitate the formulation of recommendations, while at the same time, we underline the need to continuously improve its functioning and enhance its visibility. We welcome the effort deployed to increase the diversity of participants at the IGF and we will undertake efforts to contribute towards these goals;
40. In light of the discussions on Internet public policy issues at the ITU, namely at the forthcoming World Telecommunication Development Conference in May, in India, and at the Plenipotentiary Conference in October, in Mexico, we stress that while governments have a crucial input to make, the debate on such issues is best conducted with other stakeholders such as civil society and business;

41. We thank ECLAC for its cooperation and assistance in the construction of Information Societies in Latin-America and the Caribbean, and we call for a continuation of the efforts carried by this Institution, promoting the cooperation with the EU and a permanent follow-up of cooperation activities agreed in this Declaration;
42. We express our deepest condolences and all our solidarity to our brother peoples of Haiti and Chile, recently hit by nature and we call on the international community to channel urgent efforts for the reestablishment of telecommunication services in the affected areas.

La Granja de San Ildefonso, Segovia, 15th of March 2010
