



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from:	Commission
to:	Council
Subject:	Internet Governance Forum (IGF) - Information from the Commission

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was established by the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis as a non-binding multi-stakeholder platform for an initial period of five years.

From our perspective, the Internet Governance Forum has fully met the requirements of the Tunis Agenda. The continuously high number of participants at each annual IGF meeting demonstrates that it has responded well to the expectations for it in providing a valuable platform for dialogue and sharing information and best practice. In particular the trend toward increasing participation from developing countries in the IGF is very welcome. The proliferation of national and regional IGFs also proves that the IGF model is useful and popular. The IGF is indeed the only one-stop shop for Internet Governance related issues where all topics can be addressed with the involvement by all stakeholder groups from all geographic regions in an unprecedented manner. The format and agenda of the IGF has successfully evolved during the past years to take into account the emergence of new themes and the evolution of Internet governance discussions. This year's meeting was held in Vilnius from 14 to 17 September 2010. The chairman's report notes 1461 participants in Vilnius. In addition, a significant number also participated remotely. The 2010 IGF meeting was held under the overall theme "IGF 2010 – Developing the Future Together".

Main sessions focused on critical Internet resources; diversity and access; privacy, openness and security; Internet Governance for Development and cloud computing as an emerging issue.

In the context of recent open consultations on the IGF (22 November), many commended the progress made with regard to remote participation this year as this helps to reach more people. Other frequently mentioned issues were participation by youth and Parliamentarians and the question how to address development in the IGF context. The future of the multi-stakeholder advisory group was also addressed.

With the initial timeframe of five years coming to an end this year, the continuation depends on a decision of the UN General Assembly which is likely to be taken in December 2010. Discussions on a draft resolution were held in New York. In the Second Committee of the UN a resolution has been prepared to extend the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further five years, and in this regard, invites the Secretary-General to continue with the convening of the Internet Governance Forum for a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on Internet governance issues according to its mandate as set out in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. It recognises at the same time the need to improve the IGF with a view to linking it to the broader dialogue on global internet governance and also stresses the need for the enhanced participation of developing countries.

In the context of the discussion on improvement of the IGF it is also necessary to draw attention to the resolution of the Economic and Social Council adopted in July 2010 on "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the WSIS". It invited the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) to establish, in an open and inclusive manner, a working group which would seek, compile and review inputs from all UN Members and stakeholders on improvements to the IGF. It is tasked to report back to CSTD. The EU welcomed this approach and has announced to contribute input to this working group. Switzerland was asked to chair the group. Formally the group will be established after the decision on the continuation of the IGF. It is likely that a meeting of the working group will be held on 17 December 2010.

Kenya and Azerbaijan have offered to host the 2011 and 2012 IGF meetings respectively.