Country: Netherlands

Comitee: United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Topic: Net Neutrality and its impact on Free Speech

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Net neutrality is the principle that ISPs (Internet Service Providers) must treat all internet communucations equally, and not discriminate or charge differently based on user, content, website, platform, application, type of equipment, source address, destination address, or method of communication. Basically since ISPs are the base of internet this gives them too much power that they shouldn’t possess. The Netherlands Government understands the issues this can cause that’s why we took a quick step.

On June 4, 2012, the Netherlands became the first country in Europe and the second country in the world to enact a network neutrality law. The main net neutrality provision of this law requires that Providers of public electronic communication networks used to provide internet access services as well as providers of internet access services will not hinder or slow down services or applications on the Internet. The law allows for traffic management only in the case of congestion and for network security, as long as these measures serve the interests of the internet user. In addition, the law included an anti wire-tapping provision, restricting internet providers from using invasive wire-tapping Technologies.

Netherlands government believes laws for net neutrality are the only way if we want the internet to be a place of freedom. Since you’re paying for it internet counts as a product and when you buy a product you expect to use all of the functionalities that product possess. These rules should be applied all around the world as quick as possible.

We think that not enough people realise the problems ISPs can cause. This isn’t just about slowing down your internet speed a little bit. With this control they have on the internet they can affect your rights for free speech and getting information. No ones rights should be avoided just because some company is going to make more money. People should be making protests and we should try to convince other countries too.