

Contribution of the Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality to the Net Neutrality policy debate.

The Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality (DC NN) is a structural element of the IGF. This coalition is led by the belief that the network neutrality principle plays an essential role in fostering internet openness, which, in turn, is an essential value for the promotion of a competitive market and the full enjoyment of human rights.

Since its inception, in July 2013, the DC NN has played an instrumental role promoting debate with regard to the various facets of the net-neutrality debate. Furthermore, between August and October 2013 the DC NN has elaborated a “model framework” on network neutrality, which has been subsequently delivered to the Council of Europe (CoE) as a working base for the elaboration of a Network Neutrality Recommendation.

Besides representing a clear example of multistakeholder cooperation, the elaboration of the model framework through an open, inclusive and transparent process has clearly shown how influential such process may be.

Notably, it should be highlighted that the abovementioned model framework has been taken into particular consideration by the EU Parliament in order to amend the proposed “Connected Continent” Regulation. In fact, in its Opinion¹ on the proposed “Connected Continent” Regulation, the European Parliament’s Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection has taken direct inspiration from the DC NN model framework²; whilst the definition of the network neutrality principle enshrined in the Continent Regulation, as amended by the European Parliament³, is directly inspired by the definition provided by the model framework⁴.

¹ See, e.g.: Amendment 7 of the Opinion of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down measures concerning the European single market for electronic communications and to achieve a Connected Continent, and amending Directives 2002/20/EC, 2002/21/EC and 2002/22/EC and Regulations (EC) No 1211/2009 and (EU) No 531/2012

² See: DC NN, Model Framework on Network Neutrality, Article 4, available at <http://www.networkneutrality.info/sources.html>

³ See: Amendment 95, European Parliament legislative resolution of 3 April 2014 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down measures concerning the European single market for electronic communications and to achieve a Connected Continent, and amending Directives 2002/20/EC, 2002/21/EC, 2002/22/EC, and Regulations (EC) No 1211/2009 and (EU) No 531/2012 (COM(2013)0627 – C7-0267/2013 – 2013/0309(COD)) (Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

⁴ See : DC NN, Model Framework on Network Neutrality, Article 1.