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United Nations

Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum ([IGF](#))

Villa Bocage
Palais des Nations,
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Finnish Internet Forum 2018 looked at hybrid attacks and activities

This year's Finnish Internet Forum focused on influence-seeking hybrid methods and activities. Privacy protection was another topic addressed by the experts participating in the panel discussion.

The Finnish Internet Forum (FIF) was held in the auditorium of the Little Parliament on Thursday 26 April 2018. It was organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and the Transport and Communications Committee of Parliament in cooperation with the Finnish Internet Association, Electronic Frontier Finland (Effi), BaseN, and other stakeholders. The Transport and Communications Committee of Parliament deserves to be specifically acknowledged for providing a space for the event. The lunch sponsored by the Finnish Internet Association should also be commended. The 9th FIF was fully booked with nearly 200 participants. Additionally, approximately 300 people followed the live streaming of the event. The main themes of the Forum were handled in panel discussions on hybrid methods, attacks and activities and on the importance of privacy protection. The Department for External Economic Relations at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible for matters relating to internet governance, a field of activities in which Finland has traditionally been active. For example, Finland has supported the United Nations' Internet Governance Forum (IGF), represented by FIF at the national level.

People in Finland want to know more about hybrid influencing

The use of hybrid methods and activities refers to a combination of conventional and new means and methods of influence. Influence-seeking hybrid activities are characterised by exerting psychological influence, fuelling internal conflicts, and influencing through information. Finland is a trust-based society, and the Finns have a firm trust in that others are honest. This is not true in many other societies. The panellists emphasised that much information on the internet is not necessarily true. People should verify facts before they post information in social media, for example. Mikko Salo, who is one of the founding members of Faktabaari, reminded of the forthcoming European elections in 2019. According to him, elections are one of the preferred targets of influence on the internet. He referred to "divide and rule" -types of

activities that people are gradually becoming aware of. Faktabaari has studied the phenomenon since the European elections in 2014 and found that it is easy to take advantage of unknown influencing on the internet and cause confusion. Another matter discussed at the event was the belief that it is unlikely in future that states would be among the most influential actors in areas related to influencing through technology. Such technology giants as Google, Facebook, Amazon and Apple will be among the ones that play a role in digitalisation. People should have a better understanding of technological advances. The entire society would benefit from verification of data integrity, media education and media literacy.

Protection of privacy on the internet is discussed a lot after the entry into force of the General Data Protection Regulation of the EU in May 2018

The EU is preparing for the new General Data Protection Regulation. The protection of privacy is important because individuals should be – at least to some extent – able to decide about their own data. This also helps in strengthening people's fundamental and human rights. The panellists agreed that data can be used to resolve big problems and that data based on personal information can be used to solve problems in society. A central question is, instead, what and how data are used – the critical issue is related to whether the data used are personal or anonymised. It would be important to develop a common resolve about what needs to be known about the use of data, where the demarcation line between personal and anonymous data is drawn, what data are collected, and in what form they are stored. What is important is that information is harnessed and that it is used to produce good things.

Does net neutrality matter anything anymore?

Johan Helsingius, who represented Effi and BaseN at the event, presented views of the position of net neutrality today. Net neutrality has traditionally concentrated on the management of traditional cable networks but the services and contents that are currently offered on the internet have been transferred to networks managed by various service providers and closed cloud-based environments. Closed networks provide their contents close to the users. From the EU's perspective one cause for concern is that the majority of these service providers are US companies, whose contents are – based on the so-called Cloud Act – accessible only to US authorities and intelligence services.

Emerging new technologies give rise to confrontations in society

Professor Toni Ahlqvist from the University of Oulu presented his studies about how the impact of radical technologies in our society can be not only analysed but also illustrated by describing the major confrontations that they are causing. Examples of them include so-called mass data oligopolists (Google, Amazon etc.) and their resources, which are already challenging nation states and the synthetic biology created by the side of the basic values of "holy life".

A recording of the event is available at [Parliament webpage](#).

Erillinen sivu elektronisen version käsittelyyn:

Taloudellisten ulkosuhteiden osasto
TUO-20 Petri Kuurma

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