Resolution on the second Internet Governance Forum (Rio de Janeiro, 12 - 15 November 2007)

2008/2504(RSP) - 17/01/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Following the debate in plenary, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the second Internet Governance Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro from 12 to 15 November 2007, and attracting more than 2000 participants. Parliament considers that, although the IGF is not to adopt formal conclusions, the European Union's responsibility is to support this process, as it gives a positive and concrete context to the shaping of the Internet's future on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach. Members stress that lessons can already be learnt from the fruitful exchanges held in the context of the IGF up to now, and put in motion, notably on electronic communications regulatory aspects and data security and privacy issues. They underlines the need to secure an open and independent Internet in the future, based on the initiatives and needs of the stakeholders, as well as freedom of expression.

Parliament calls on the EU institutions concerned to take the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society into consideration in their legislative work, such as the revision of the electronic telecommunications framework, the revision of the i2010 initiative and any upcoming ICT legislative proposals. It emphasises the means of making the Internet more accessible to more people, e.g. competition between operators and service providers, technology neutrality and development of ICT. Parliament also underlines the importance of raising the parliamentary profile of the IGF process and looks forward to cooperating with the Brazilian and Indian Parliaments and other interested assemblies in connection with the next IGF in New Delhi.

It calls on the Council and the Commission to keep the IGF high on their agendas, recognising the value of furthering its cooperation with the Commission, e.g. through regular meetings after meetings of the IGF Advisory Group.

Parliament emphasises the importance of engaging national and regional interests in the IGF process in order to form 'local' IGFs, as is already being proposed in the UK. Accordingly, it encourages the organisation of a 'European IGF' before mid-2009 to reinforce the European dimension of the whole IGF /WSIS process, and requests its President to offer facilities for a preparatory event involving members of the parliaments of the Member States before the New Delhi IGF.