NO DISCONNECT STRATEGY WORKSHOP
EUROPEAN CAPABILITY FOR SITUATIONAL AWARENESS (ECSA)
BRUSSELS, 23 NOVEMBER 2012, 10:00 – 17:00
(AVENUE DE BEAULIEU 25, BUILDING BU25, MEETING ROOM 0/S1)

CHAIRED BY MR EDDY HARTOG
(HEAD OF UNIT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

INTRODUCTION, CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

In December 2011 Vice-President Kroes launched the "No Disconnect Strategy" (NDS), to support and assist human rights defenders, civil society organizations and individual citizens against arbitrary disruptions to the Internet and other electronic communication technologies and indiscriminate surveillance in authoritarian regimes.

One of the components of the NDS is the development of a "**European Capability for Situational Awareness**" (ECSA) platform.

The purpose of the ECSA platform is to augment EU decision-making capabilities with **reliable** and **real-time** or **almost real-time** information concerning human rights violations and/or restrictions of fundamental freedoms in connection with the digital environment. ECSA would seamlessly aggregate public data from different sources and with innovative visualisation techniques, to provide information on:

1. What is happening on the Net, in terms of network connectivity and traffic alterations or restrictions. The platform should integrate and visualize different data sets analysing the "state of the Internet" (nation-, region- or local disconnection, filtering, blocking and other forms of disruptions) in order to allow decision-makers to act upon reliable data concerning the "cyber-geography" of Internet connectivity.

2. What is happening on the ground, in terms of human rights, media, legal and policy developments concerning the Internet. The platform should integrate and visualise data sets analysing legal and political developments (e.g. arrests of journalists, crack-downs on local NGOs, etc).

This mash-up platform or dashboard would provide policy makers, researchers and other actors with first-hand information of the state of the Internet in connection with other factors.

The aggregation of data seems essential to help contextualize information concerning Internet events by establishing their link to other developments taking place on the ground in a number of fields affecting legal, political, social, economic, media and human rights´ developments.

In this sense, the combination of network measurements and network events with field reporting can provide a more accurate picture of the state of Internet restrictions of all kinds, and help develop situational and early-warning capabilities.

If one had to picture the "perfect" platform, what should ECSA achieve? As a starting point for the discussion, we argue that ECSA should:

- enhance Internet performance knowledge and transparency

- provide a comprehensive view of the current state of Internet connectivity in selected geographic regions

- enable early detection and diagnosis of connectivity problems and security breaches and a quick and adequate response to such events

- help contextualize and provide a clear mapping of legal and political events to then analyse their relationship with other events affecting Internet and other electronic communication technologies

- improve the way in which ICT facilitate effective communication in case of crisis management to link professional, communities and stakeholders involved in crisis management, humanitarian aid and peace-building

- benefit from first-hand information coming from media actors on a wide range of issues related to Internet and media freedom, as well as from the direct feedback of networks of bloggers and activists campaigning for abuses of human rights or who have been arrested or threatened to limit their right to free speech

In this light, the goals of the workshop are to:

1. present and discuss the scope, objectives and "success criteria" of the ECSA platform;

2. present and discuss some of the projects that are working in this field;

3. provide the opportunity for (social) networking and;

4. identify the best way in which the EU can provide added value to strengthen on-going activities and achieve the objectives of the ECSA platform, including (where appropriate) via financial support. In particular, the following questions will steer the discussion during the afternoon session:

    a. Is there a "missing link" among the different projects / groups working in this problem space? What would be the best way for the EU to provide "added value" in this context?

    b. Which kind of "data governance" should the ECSA platform be based on? Who should contribute and have access to the relevant data / information?

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Hour	Title	Description	Speaker
09:30 – 10:00	Registration and coffee		
10:00 – 10:15	Opening and logistics		European Commission
10:15– 10:30	The No Disconnect Strategy: origins, state of play, next steps (+ Q&A)	*Presentation of the origins and next steps of the No Disconnect Strategy, to better frame discussions during the workshop*	European Commission
10:30 – 11:00	A European Capability for Situational Awareness – monitoring human rights and fundamental freedoms online (+ Q&A)	*Presentation of the "ECSA" pillar of the No Disconnect Strategy: goals, challenges, questions, support.*	European Commission
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break		
11:15 – 13:00	Who maps what?	*Short presentations by projects focusing on technological, social and legal mapping / monitoring*	Hisham Almiraat (*Global Voices Advocacy / Threatened Voices*) Ruben Bloemgarten (*ChokePoint Project*) Andrea Calderaro (*European University Institute*) Masashi Crete-Nishihata (*Citizens Lab, University of Toronto*) Jun Matsushita (*InterNews*) Rafal Rohozinski (*SecDev Group*) Kavé Salamatian (*University of Savoie*)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break		
14:00 – 15:30	Challenges and synergies	*Open discussion to identify the main challenges and possibilities to create synergies among different "mapping / monitoring" projects, and how the EU can best add value.*	Moderation by the European Commission; all participants are warmly invited to take the floor
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break		
15:45 – 16:45	A hackaton for ECSA?	*Discussion on the possibility to organise a hackaton in the 2nd quarter of 2013, as well as its main objectives.*	Caroline De Cock (N-Square)
16:45 – 17:00	Conclusions and next steps	*Summary / operational next steps.*	European Commission

For all information concerning the <u>content</u> of this workshop, please contact Mr Andrea Glorioso (Andrea.Glorioso@ec.europa.eu).

For all information concerning the <u>logistics</u> of the workshop, please contact Ms Katrin Alfano (Katrin.Alfano@ec.europa.eu).