

**Internet Governance Forum, Bali, 22-25 October 2013**

## **Council of Europe Open Forum**

# **Guide on human rights for Internet users**

Friday 25 October 11:00-12:30  
Room 1 - Nusa Dua Hall 2

Are users aware of how a simple click on the 'Read and Accept our Policy' buttons integrated in the terms and conditions of Internet services may affect their rights and freedoms?

The Council of Europe is preparing a Guide on Human Rights for Internet Users which aims to be a useful tool to empower user to know and to exercise their right to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, association and participation, privacy and data protection, the rights of children and young persons.

The draft Guide, which is scheduled for adoption by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in early 2014, will be presented during the open forum. Stakeholders will be invited to comment and provide their contributions on the guide as part of an open round of consultations and discussions with stakeholders.

### **Understanding and exercising human rights online**

There is a need for a better understanding of the actions and behaviours of people, governments, the private sector and other actors that can affect rights and freedoms in cyberspace. For example,

Are users aware of the implications for their human rights of accepting the terms and conditions of Internet services?

Do they know what happens to personal information shared on social networks and, to this end, what information is left behind as a footprint to websites visited?

In such events, users need information to understand whether their human rights are at issue and to decide if there are possibilities for recourse and remedies available.

### **Guide on Human Rights for Internet Users**

The Council of Europe is preparing a Guide on Human Rights for Internet Users which identifies and elaborates on selected rights and freedoms, notably the right to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, association and participation, privacy and data protection, the rights of children and young persons. This includes information on how to act upon these as part of every user's right to an effective remedy. The adoption of the Guide by governments in the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers is scheduled for early 2014. Its launch and dissemination is planned for mid-2014.

The draft Guide will be presented during the Open Forum. Stakeholders will be invited to comment and provide their contributions on the Guide as part of an open round of consultations and discussions with stakeholders.

### **Key questions for discussion:**

- How to capitalise and maximise the Guide's potential for strengthening the implementation of existing human rights standards at the domestic level?
- What action is needed by governmental agencies, the private sector and civil society to promote it?
- Can the Guide be adopted as a tool by Internet and online service providers in the exercise of their social corporate responsibilities?
- Are new remedies for violations of fundamental rights and freedoms online needed? Are new levels of commitments to the existing remedies needed?



Please visit the address [www.coe.int/t/information/society/](http://www.coe.int/t/information/society/) for the text of the Guide and send us your comments before 15 November 2013 at [ig@coe.int](mailto:ig@coe.int).

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The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental political organisation that brings together 47 countries, making up an entire democratic continent. Its key objectives are promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Its headquarters are in Strasbourg, France.

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

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