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INTUG Responds to the EC Consultation on Net Neutrality

The choice of one provider or one ICT element should not restrict the choices available elsewhere in the ICT landscape, according to the International Telecommunications User Group in its response to the European Commission. “Enterprise users of ICT want efficient business processes that work consistently whoever they connect to. It would be unacceptable to find that because one of your business partners is now using a different Internet service provider, you cannot continue to use your business operations application,” Nick White, executive vice president said, speaking at a Westminster eForum on net neutrality in London.

In its submission, the telecoms business user group INTUG says that the overriding issues surrounding net neutrality are: differentiation, discrimination and transparency. Like the distinction between tax avoidance and tax evasion, there is a distinction between legal differentiation and illegal discrimination. Transparent differentiation can be legitimate for transient technical reasons in some circumstances, but it will never be acceptable for network operators to discriminate for commercial or anti-competitive reasons. Transparency is a necessary safeguard against this but it is not going to be sufficient.

Speaking to an audience of regulators, service providers and government representatives, White said on Tuesday that, “Businesses and public sector organisations must be able to maintain their process integrity when individual components of the supply chain change. This is absolutely critical.”

INTUG’s response to the European Commission consultation is at <http://intug.org/documents/intug-positions/>

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