



OECD activities related to Internet Public Policy Issues

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Consultations on the establishment of the Working Group on
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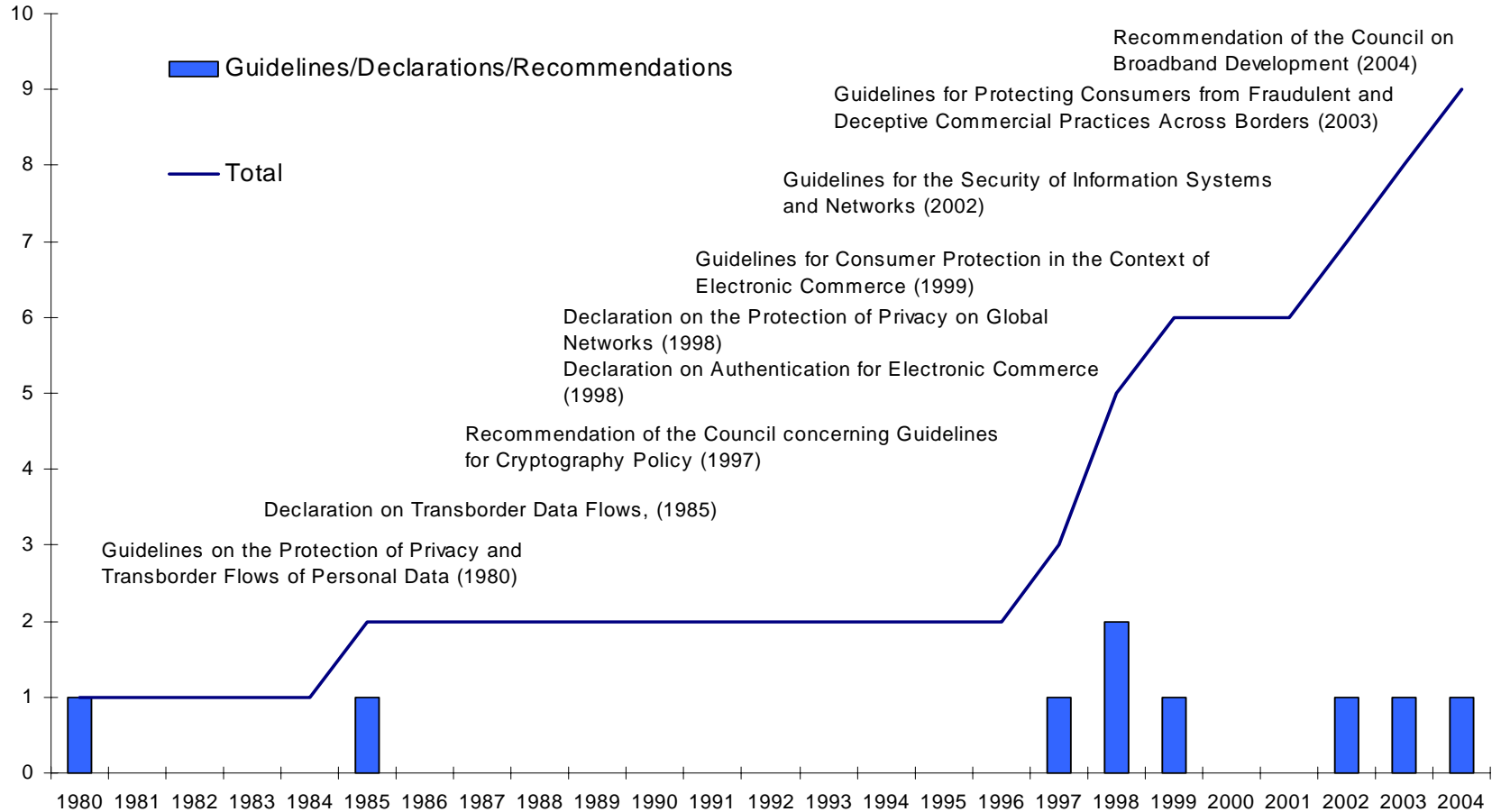
Introducing the OECD

- The OECD groups 30 member countries sharing a commitment to democratic government and the market economy. With active relationships with some 70 other countries, NGOs and civil society
- The OECD is an economic organisation producing statistics, dialogue, policy advice and recommendations.
- The OECD plays a prominent role in fostering good governance in the public service and in corporate activity. This is accomplished in two ways
 - through dialogue, consensus, peer review and pressure. The OECD's governing body, the Council, is made up of representatives of member countries. It provides guidance on the work of OECD committees.
 - through internationally agreed instruments, decisions and recommendations to promote “rules of the game” in areas where multilateral agreement is necessary for individual countries to make progress in a globalised economy. These “rules of the game” tend to be non binding ones as per the following examples in areas related to networks.

Promoting 'Rules of the Game' and Best Practice Policy in areas related to networks

- Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data (1980)
- Declaration on Transborder Data Flows, (1985)
- Recommendation of the Council concerning Guidelines for Cryptography Policy (1997)
- Declaration on the Protection of Privacy on Global Networks (1998)
- Declaration on Authentication for Electronic Commerce (1998)
- Guidelines for Consumer Protection in the Context of Electronic Commerce (1999)
- Guidelines for the Security of Information Systems and Networks (2002)
- Guidelines for Protecting Consumers from Fraudulent and Deceptive Commercial Practices Across Borders (2003)
- Recommendation of the Council on Broadband Development (2004)

Timeline of OECD Guidelines/Declarations/Recommendations



OECD Policy Discussion

- Majority of OECD work related to Internet public policy issues occurs through the Committee on Information Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP).
 - This includes security and privacy, telecommunication policy, and broader information economy issues. Examples of areas of work include: Internet Traffic Exchange: Developments and Policy (1998) and Internet traffic exchange and the development of end-to-end international telecommunication competition (2002)
 - This work is also made available to other international forums such as, in the case of Internet traffic exchange, to ITU's Study Group 3 and APEC.
- A fundamental requirement for widespread national Internet access is an efficient telecommunications sector
 - Experience from OECD countries as well as non-OECD countries has shown that this is best achieved through vibrant competition;
 - OECD believes that a fundamental cornerstone in the debate on the Information Society should be a commitment to an open, competitive telecommunications market, an independent regulatory body and a regulatory framework ensuring fair and equal access to the market and essential resources.

OECD Policy Discussion

- ICCP provided one of the forums for the first international discussions on domain names between governments prior to the creation of ICANN.
 - Dublin Internet Workshop Session on Domain Names (1996)
 - Internet Domain Name Allocation Policies (1997)
 - Comparing domain name administration in OECD countries (2003)
 - Generic top level domain names: market development and allocation issues (2004)
- Other OECD Committees that have worked on public policy issues that bear on Internet include Fiscal Affairs and Consumer Policy in the course of their work on taxation, electronic commerce and consumer protection.

The OECD also provides wider forums for International Discussion

- From Ministerial meetings (e.g. e-commerce Ottawa, 1998) through to regional outreach conferences beyond OECD area (e.g. Dubai, 2001 & 2002) through to smaller workshops.
- OECD conducted a series of workshops, beginning in Dublin (1996), which brought together government, international organisations, industry, civil society and academia to discuss issues related to Internet infrastructure including names and addresses. Others include: Osaka (1998), Venice (2000), Berlin (2001) and Seoul (2002).
- A workshop on rural broadband access to the Internet will be held in Porto (25-26 October 2004). The draft agenda is available at: www.oecd.org/sti/telecom

The OECD and Spam

- In 2004 OECD countries have set up a task force to marshal the efforts of government, business and civil society in response to the problems posed by unsolicited e-mail messages, or spam.
- The creation of the OECD Task Force reflects a consensus that the OECD's broad and inclusive approach, multi-disciplinary expertise and network of contacts with countries and economies outside its membership makes it suited to co-ordinate and supplement efforts to combat spam at national and international levels.
- The Task Force has been given two years to study existing and emerging anti-spam strategies across all sectors; develop and promote an anti-spam "tool-kit" focused on practical anti-spam strategies, arrangements and solutions; and devise a public awareness strategy in order to support global efforts to combat spam.
- As part of their drive against spam, OECD countries held an international Workshop, Hosted by Korea's Ministry of Information and Communication, on Spam, Korea on 8-9 September 2004, which provided an opportunity for public dialogue on the priorities of the OECD Task Force on Spam. This followed the first OECD Workshop on Spam, hosted by the European Commission in February 2004.

The OECD and ICANN

- The OECD has participated in ICANN's Government Advisory Committee since its inception.
- The OECD also participates on GAC working groups in respect to policies for gTLDs and 'Whois?'
- The OECD's observer status provides an avenue to make its views and the results of its work available to GAC and to ICANN where it bears on their work. Past OECD presentations to the GAC include a range of topics such as consumer policy, fiscal affairs and the allocation of gTLDs.

OECD and WSIS

- The OECD's WSIS contribution is focused on:
 - Researching the link between ICT and economic growth and social development and the policy implications of that, as well as the development of the statistics and indicators to inform that work.
 - The security of information systems and networks, and
 - The role of ICT in development assistance efforts
- In co-operation with other international organisations (of the UN family) the OECD is co-organising thematic meetings early in 2005 on the subjects of economic and social impacts of ICTs and on statistics that can assist informing the millennium development goals.

OECD, WSIS and Internet Governance

- The OECD has not been asked by Member countries to define Internet Governance or to identify priority issues that might be related to that concept.
- Member countries have asked the OECD to provide information on the role the OECD plays in relation to public policy issues, that may relate to the Internet, as a contribution to the WGIG's activities.
- The OECD does not have a position on Internet governance beyond those general principles that would extend to good governance in any area of public service or corporate activity or where experience from ongoing work in related areas, such as the OECD's work on telecommunications policy, suggest useful principles.