### Response of Estonia to the questions on the promotion of the right to freedom of expression in the digital age

Estonia would like to express satisfaction and sincere appreciation that the United Nations has put the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression at the digital age high on the agenda. We are also delighted to hear that you as a Special Rapporteur are taking concrete steps to study the responsibilities of the Information and Communication Technologies sector in this regard.

Estonia has striven to be a frontrunner for the human rights in the digital age. Freedom of expression (including internet freedom) has been and also continues to be among our priorities in the field of human rights.

As a founding member of Freedom Online Coalition we have actively tried to advance the discussions over online freedoms and committed ourselves to safeguard fundamental rights and freedoms online.[[1]](#footnote-1) In this respect we would like to draw your attention to the work carried out by the Working Groups of FOC which touch the areas of free and secure internet, digital development and openness, privacy and transparency online.[[2]](#footnote-2)

In your letter you have rightly pointed on many relevant ICT related topics which implicate freedom of opinion and expression. There are some topics where the discussion has been advancing quite rapidly over last years (like net neutrality[[3]](#footnote-3) [[4]](#footnote-4), liability of intermediaries[[5]](#footnote-5)) while for the others it is still too early to draw conclusions and further discussion is needed (data localization, encryption).

We see the need to provide platforms for these discussions. Eurodig as a regional internet governance forum is one of those platforms and the call of issues for the 2016 edition to be held in Brussels clearly confirms the argument.[[6]](#footnote-6) We are glad to announce that as the Presidency for the European Union during the first semester 2018 Estonia is well positioned to continue a constructive dialogue on the related issues.

1. https://www.freedomonlinecoalition.com/about/documents-list/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.freedomonlinecoalition.com/how-we-work/working-groups/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.fcc.gov/general/open-internet [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/eu-actions [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"respondent":["EST"],"documentcollectionid2":["GRANDCHAMBER"],"itemid":["001-155105"]} [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. http://www.eurodig.org/get-involved/call-for-issues/?tx\_cpsproposals\_proposals%5B%40widget\_0%5D%5BcurrentPage%5D=3&tx\_cpsproposals\_proposals%5B%40widget\_0%5D%5BaddQueryStringMethod%5D=GET%2CPOST&cHash=1895db6527a369e5f8fc1e6c253e4121 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)