

PUBLIC AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT

Our Roundtable Meetings offer governments and regulators the opportunity to discuss governance issues relevant to the RIPE NCC and the RIPE community while gaining a deeper understanding of complex technical topics.

In 2023, we held four Roundtable Meetings: one in Western Europe, one in the Middle East and two in South East Europe. Representatives attending these events discussed a variety of issues including developing digital infrastructure, creating sustainable Internet policies, upcoming digital policy and regulations, the effects of sanctions and the risk of Internet fragmentation. These meetings highlight the importance of digital cooperation between the technical community and the public sector.

In 2023, we sponsored several Internet governance events, including the global IGF and regional/national IGFs (EuroDIG, SEEDIG, CAIGF and those in Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Belarus).

PUBLIC POLICY CONSULTATIONS

We contribute to various consultations led by different governmental and inter-governmental organisations involved in Internet governance and public policymaking that have the potential to impact our operations or those of our members and the RIPE community. These organisations include the various individual governments and regulators throughout our service region, such as the European Commission as well as EU member states, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and ITU Arab Regional Office, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the Organisa-

tion for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), the UN ESCAP Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC), the IPv6 Council, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the League of Arab States, the Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization (AICTO) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

In 2023, we submitted a response to the European Commission's proposal for a Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) and sent a letter to the EU Parliament emphasising the RIPE community's concerns about the CRA's limited exemption for the development and making available of open-source software. We also submitted interventions on the UN's Global Digital Compact, specifically in the thematic deep dives on Internet governance and on digital inclusion and connectivity. During the UN consultation on the Global Digital Compact, we responded to their questionnaire highlighting key focus areas, namely: connecting all people to the Internet, including all schools; avoiding Internet fragmentation; the digital commons as a global public good; and Internet governance and participation. We shared our response to the GDC consultation with the RIPE community and with government representatives and regulators at our South East Europe Roundtable Meeting. We also responded to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding their Pre-consultation about the Modernisation of the Dutch Sanctions System to share our concerns about the consequences of sanctions and compliance on our operations.

In August 2023, Russia enacted legislation forbidding participation for foreign NGOs that are not registered in a special registry. We have been investigating its potential impact on the RIPE NCC and our members and have been in touch with various stakeholders and experts to get their understanding on this law and its implications. This is crucial to us as we have a great number of members in Russia, including natural and legal persons, as well as state bodies.

In the Middle East, we contributed to initiatives such as the Arab Digital Agenda, the Arab Cybersecurity Strategy and the IPv6 Arab Council to help shape a future-ready Internet landscape. We maintain an active presence within the Arab Expert Group working on the Arab Digital Agenda and the Arab working group on Internet-related issues and routinely attend events such as the Arab IGF and Arab High-Level WSIS. In 2023, the Council of Arab Information and Communications Technology Ministers incorporated the outcomes of our government roundtable discussions into their recommendations, marking a significant milestone of successful collaboration. Regardless of the particular issue, our standpoint always champions a multistakeholder approach to Internet governance and is focused on protecting the Internet's core technical functions, the role of the global RIR system, and the technical community's role in operating the technical layers of the Internet.

[READ MORE](#)