

**Open Letter to the European Commission
Regarding
Access to Internet on EU territory -- the Fifth
Freedom and Fundamental Human Right**

To:

**NEELIE KROES
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR DIGITAL AGENDA**

**VIVIANE REDING
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE, FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP**

**JOHN DALLI
EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH AND CONSUMER POLICY**

cc

**Kristalina Georgieva
European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response**

Sofia, June 20th, 2011

Dear Commissioners,

We would like to congratulate you for all the achievements of the European Commission in the fields of digital agenda, of justice, fundamental rights and citizenship and of health and consumer policies.

We, being average EU consumers, highly appreciate the activities of the EC regarding Internet and the access to it, as well as the priority which you attach to this topic. We particularly value your vision of the Digital Agenda for Europe 2010-2020, its current achievements and the envisaged future results.

We would like to draw your attention to one particular but yet critical issue on the intersection of your respective three portfolios. This is the free of charge pan-European access to high-speed and reliable Internet services in all public areas (hotels, airports, restaurants, cafes, petrol stations, stadiums, theatres, shopping malls, parks, vehicle stops and stations, public restrooms etc), in all public transportation vehicles (airplanes, subway, trains, shuttles, boats etc.) as well as in all Governmental and Municipal offices and real estate properties on EU territory. What we have in mind is both, cable and wireless high-speed Internet.

Nowadays, to pay €10-15 for Internet at five-star hotel located in the heart of Europe is equivalent to be charged for the hot water in your bathroom or for the electricity in this same hotel or even for the air you breathe. From this point of view, Bulgarians are more privileged than others: Bulgaria is 5th in the world in quality of broadband Internet, while Sofia is 11th city in the world in the quality of Internet connection (according to a research of Cisco Systems, conducted by Oxford University www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=121236). However all Europeans deserve much more than that.

Therefore, we encourage you to take necessary steps leading to lifting the restrictions to access of EU citizens and visitors to Internet. Having in mind your remarkable leadership on reducing the roaming charges, we believe that such steps can be taken as soon as this coming summer, to facilitate the EU citizens' travel during the vacation season. Speaking of roaming, we value this as another big success