



Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair Call #23.

Minutes

Wednesday, 31st August, 2016.

Attending: Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Germany, Netherlands, UK, US.

Apologies: Mongolia, Norway.

Housekeeping:

- UK/US gave an update on the progress of the Strategic Review
 - UK gave an update on the survey circulated among FOC members.
 - US introduced the draft FOC decision document related to SRWG work:
 - Friends agreed that more time was needed for substantial feedback and comments to be provided.
 - The US requested that feedback be provided by 7th September - this would also allow for in-person discussions at the SRWG meeting on 8th September.
 - The US is aiming to send the Strategic Review decision document to the Coalition for the 30 day silence procedure by 12th September.
- US raised issue of expression of interest for the next FOC Chair (2016-17).
- Costa Rica (CR) gave an update on Annual Conference preparations
 - CR reports good progress on developing the agenda, and is hoping to finalise session outlines by the end of W/C 5th September.
 - Each of the three tracks will have a coordinator, who will also co-moderate each session.
 - Each of the three tracks will have three sessions in the following format;
 - (i) Problem statement (ii) Best current practises (iii) Next steps/FOC role.
 - CR requested that Friends check with their government for availability to participate in the “next steps/FOC role” sessions.
 - The fourth track covers a broader set of issues and has received numerous proposals from Governments, Civil Society Organisations and International Organisations.

Action>>> Friends to check with their Government for availability to participate in “Next steps/FOC role” sessions during FO Costa Rica.

Outreach

- There were no updates on outreach activities.

Coordination

- Members discussed the agenda for the upcoming FOC Strategy meeting in Costa Rica.
 - The Support Unit will be working with Costa Rica to design the agenda.

- Friends suggested items for the strategy meeting agenda:

Action>>> SU to liaise with CR to draft agenda for upcoming Strategy meeting on margins of FO2016

Joint Activities

- It was reported that the US government has drafted a statement of support for Working Group 1's [recommendations on cybersecurity](#).
- FOC statement of support for the WG1 recommendations is currently being finalised by Canada

Updates on Working Groups

- Working Group Co-Chairs gave an update on Working Groups
 - Working Group 1 - Informed Friends of a face-to-face meeting to be held in Strasbourg on 7th September.
 - Working Group 2 - Continuing work on blog series.
 - Working Group 3 - Informal conversations with the Open Government Partnership have been in the works. The purpose of this is to see what areas of commonality there are between the FOC and the Open Government Partnership. In particular, on best current practises and national action plans.

Any other business

- Estonia informed Friends that they will be hosting Eurodig 2017