



Date: October 31, 2006

Time: 17:30-19:00

Location: Aphrodite
Conference Hall, Divani
Apollon Hotel and Spa

Panel Participants:

Ambassador David Gross, U.S.
State Department

Michael Samway, International
Legal Affairs Director, Yahoo! Inc.

Mr. Fred Tipson, Senior Policy
Council, Microsoft

Julien Pain, Director, Internet
desk, Reporters Sans Frontiers

Professor Ron Deibert, Open Net
Initiative, University of Toronto

Bernard Benhamou, Senior
Lecturer, Institute of Political Studies
in Paris, member of the French and
European Delegation at WSIS

Sponsored by:

Internet Governance Project

UNESCO

**Workshop on Freedom of Expression and Internet
content filtering and blocking by national states**

This workshop considers blocking and filtering of Internet content mandated or enforced by governments. Two moderators, Jeanette Hofmann from the Internet Governance Project and Elizabeth Longworth of UNESCO, will ask questions and facilitate discussion by a panel of diplomats, global internet business representatives, academic researchers and civil society advocacy groups. The workshop will explore how countries with different notions of legal and illegal content can reconcile these differences in a way that maximizes the freedom and value of the Internet and makes it possible for Internet service providers to operate in a more secure and stable legal environment.

The panelists will explore:

- Facts about the nature and scope of blocking
- The justifications offered by governments for blocking and by private businesses for collaborating with it
- Jurisdictional conflicts over Internet content
- Whether blocking and filtering by democratic states is more legitimate and acceptable than blocking by undemocratic states
- Areas of potential international agreement on how to deal with this problem

There will be time for those attending the Workshop to pose questions or participate in the discussion.