

Subject: Christofer Fjellner's proposed AM 166

From: HARBOUR Malcolm  
Sent: Wed 4/29/2009 6:00 PM

Dear colleagues,

As Rapporteur, I wanted to explain to you why I do not support Christofer Fjellner's Amendment 166 and would advise you not to either. His proposed amendment is not well drafted, and it is so loosely worded that it would allow a Government to take any action it wishes to restrict internet access. See my attached analysis.

My alternative amendment, which has been carefully constructed and is supported by PSE and ALDE, is part of the Telecoms Package compromise and makes it clear that in the field of access to internet services, the fundamental rules of the Convention on Human Rights must apply. It was not, as Christofer implies, drafted under pressure from Council.

We now have a safeguard clause for the rights of internet users in place and we succeeded in getting it adopted by Council, as a key article in the opening section of the Universal Service and Users Rights Directive.

I and my fellow Rapporteurs Catherine Trautmann and Pilar De Castillo are sure we can count on your support in Plenary next week.

Best wishes,

Malcolm.