

Position paper: Finland

As all our fellow member states we know of the importance of freedom of speech, of the rights of our citizens to communicate freely and recognize that these values are fundamental European values. At the same time, we believe it is inevitable for the government to implement its power also in the digital world. This shall not happen in order to limit the rights we deem to important but rather to secure their existence. One cannot deny the fact that some parts of the internet make a development towards withdrawing themselves from the power of state completely. We do not want to see our values endangered by those who do not want a European Union that is based on freedom and human rights. Right-wing and Islamic extremists seek to destroy our tolerance. Therefore we say: no tolerance towards intolerance, no freedom to those who do not value freedom. The rule of law needs to cover the internet because the rule of law is what secures our liberty. Those who fear that their human rights might be restricted by liberal governments- and therefore refuse governmental intervention- will one day see it restricted by non-liberals. We believe a Charta of Digital Human Rights will help to implement the rule of law in the digital world.