



Den Haag

In 2018, The Hague will be host to the first international summit of the Association for Accountability Internet Democracy (AAID) in the Peace Palace. The focus of the conference will be a discussion between public and private sector about the possibility of an international internet ombudsman, to be seated in the Hague.

Saskia Bruines, the deputy mayor of The Hague: "I am pleased to bring a conference on this important discussion to the Hague. Only through a new normative and institutional framework we will be able to ensure a secure and accountable internet."

Dan Shefet, founder of AAID: "As legal capital of world, it is only natural that the first international AAID summit will be held in the city of The Hague to explore what legal principles could be required for cyber space."

The Hague: city of peace and justice

The Hague is well known as the judicial capital of the world with all its prestigious courts and tribunals. In our increasingly digitalized world, we need new judicial organs to tackle digital challenges. The challenges of terrorist radicalization on the internet, fake news, hate speech and 'the right to be forgotten' are becoming more prevalent by the day. These challenges require global solutions. The Hague is already the right place for legal arbitration and conflict prevention. There now is a sense of urgency to build further on this traditional judicial infrastructure. The Dutch Data Protection Authority is positive about this initiative.

International interest in digital developments and calls for appropriate response

The international interest in digital developments and calls for appropriate responses are striking. In the wake of terror attacks in London Theresa May, Britain's prime minister, announced sweeping measures against internet service providers (ISPs) and the prevalence of fake news and radicalization on social media. European leaders Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel, the French President and German Chancellor respectively, have echoed similar calls for regulating ISPs by developing a smart and new legal framework.

Regulating cyberspace for terrorism is no longer inconceivable. Clearly, the world community is pressing for IT accountability and this means that we need to provide legal certainty, dispute resolution mechanisms and guidance. An International Internet Ombudsman in The Hague would be designed towards these ends.

Contact

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