

It's a big day for the open Internet in Europe. After a five-year campaign to enact strong Net Neutrality rules across the continent, digital rights advocates finally got a vote in the European Parliament, which [approved strong protections for a free and open Internet](#).

In a statement, Amelia Andersdotter, spokeswoman for the Greens/European Free Alliance partnership in Parliament, [wrote](#), "Today's vote would explicitly provide for Net Neutrality and will hopefully ensure a level playing field for all online services and users, providing for a more open Internet environment in which innovation is encouraged."

The language adopted today includes a clear and binding definition of Net Neutrality and prohibitions against blocking, throttling and other forms of discrimination from Internet service providers.

The Parliament also rejected a so-called "specialized services" loophole. If that loophole had remained, ISPs would have been able to give content providers preferential treatment in exchange for cash ([sound familiar?](#)). Our friends at Access have [more about the specifics](#).

Now that the European Parliament has approved this legislation — the "Telecoms Single Market" proposal — the next step is the Council of the European Union, which must adopt the proposal for it to move forward.

Today's news makes it clear that European leaders — along with millions around the world — recognize that Internet freedom depends on strong policies that protect our rights to connect and communicate. The FCC should take notice as it considers its [next steps](#) to restore Net Neutrality.

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