

Bill of Rights for Citizens in the Global Information Society

CECUA and its partners recognise from the conclusions of the 1998 Brussels conference “Citizens in the Global Information Society” that Europeans are failing to take advantage of the considerable benefits that are available from the Global Information Society because of considerable doubts and fears arising from the “Information Age”.

In particular, the GIS is seen as benefiting large organisations and governments and is failing to recognise and protect the interests of citizens.

To address these fears, CECUA and its Partners have proposed a draft set of basic rights in order to make policy makers and politicians aware of the issues so that they can address these fears and concerns.

The proposed Draft Bill of Rights consists of:

- **Article 1 DIGNITY:** The Citizen of the Global Information Society will take care of and guard this as a basic right of this Society. (Personal Privacy and Copyright are protected by separate legislation).
- **Article 2 – FREEDOM of PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:** The Citizen has the right to develop his own talents so long as he is not violating the basic rights of fellow citizens and is not violating the basic rights of his government or the laws of morality.
- **Art. 3 - FREEDOM of COMMUNICATION:** Freedom of speech and self-expression, freedom of universal access and distribution of information and the right of knowledge to conduct this are fundamental rights to the Citizen of the Global Information Society.
- **Art. 4- CULTURAL PRESERVATION:** The Citizen shall have the right to communicate in his native tongue, and to work and conduct official business in an Official language of the sovereign state of his residence.
- **Art. 5 - RIGHT OF ACCESS:** The Citizen shall have the right of access to public information in a timely manner and shall not be excluded by lack of access for geographical or affordability reasons, lack of usability or lack of functionality.
- **Art. 6 - RIGHT for RELIABLE and FUNCTIONING SERVICES:** The Citizen shall have the right to access services and facilities, which have a stable user interface requiring basic skills that the facilities are secure, and with that data and information which is accurate and timely.
- **Art. 7 - NETIQUETTE:** The Citizen, Government and all other organisations have the responsibility to abide by and act in accordance with the rules of the Netiquette
- **Art. 8 - RIGHT for ACCURATE and UNDERSTANDABLE CHARGING:** The Citizen shall have the right to accurate, understandable and timely billing for Internet services and facilities.
- **Art. 9 - RIGHT FOR REDRESS**
- The Citizen shall have access to protection and redress for acts of fraud, corruption of personal data, loss of privacy, and consequential costs arising from errors, bugs or failures of Internet services and facilities.