"International Digital Convention" –
Some views of an European IT user organization

The issue has a long history that should be taken into account.

With regard to current efforts for an international digital convention it makes sense to have a look on given historical roots. Many issues have a long-term meaning. In this respect CECUA has also been active very early and has published 1995 "The Bill of Rights for the Digital-Community". Throughout the years there were activities all over the world and in 2014 the European Council published the "European Charter of Fundamental Rights". Present activities should have this work in mind.

Given general frameworks should be referred to.

Great efforts are required to meet the challenges of our digital future and, of course, new thinking and new solutions are required, but some topics should also be based on suitable frameworks of the non-digital world. Additional and unnecessary conventions might confuse rather than help.

Market and technology have to be taken into account and very different stakeholders have to agree.

Market and technology as the dominant driving forces for our digital future have to be taken into account. The complex issues, the unknown future, the ever accelerating progress and cultural diversity create a difficult initial situation for an international digital convention. Important stakeholders are not able to understand as well to look after their own interests. This is valid for individual users as well as for individual politicians, but even skilled groups and industry have difficulties with these issues. Nevertheless efforts addressing an international digital convention should prioritize to involve adequate representation of all groups of stakeholders and try for agreed consensual solutions. Political forces should ensure this.

The issue is very important but also extremely difficult, complex and urgent.

Our future will mainly be a digital future. Consequently an international convention for this digital future touches on a key part of our life as individuals and as citizens of local, national and global societies. Furthermore related rights and agreements are an essential factor for present action and planning of the future in society, business, industry and daily life. Unfortunately they are dealing with a matter that is very unclear. Looking forward we should not forget lessons that can be learned from the past. On the other hand new challenges need adequate measures and we should not underestimate the tremendous dynamics and the importance of the future development.

We have to define a strategy for a task that can't really be mastered.

Despite of these problems the international community should take care of the issue. With respect to a strategy for tackling the task CECUA has some basic recommendations:
- Efforts must be increased considerably, otherwise we are losing ground in the ongoing race.
- Experiences and conclusions from the past should be considered.
- Related work should base on a general view and preferably keep away from present details.
- Market mechanisms as well as political and cultural aspects have to be taken into account.
- All groups of stakeholders should be adequately represented in the related work.