



**OSCE Chairmanship Conference
Dublin Conference on Internet Freedom
Dublin Castle
18-19 June 2012**

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Chairperson-in-Office, Eamon Gilmore T.D., it is with great pleasure that I invite you to nominate representatives to attend the Chairmanship Conference on Internet Freedom, which we will host in Dublin on 18-19 June 2012.

The aim of the Conference, which will take place in the historic setting of Dublin Castle, is to move towards a clearer understanding of existing OSCE commitments regarding the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of the media, and their application to the Internet and other connective technologies. It will explore relevant provisions of international law, as well as current challenges to the online enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression.

The Conference will also examine challenges in ensuring physical access to the Internet, governance issues, and the uses of the Internet to facilitate and enhance - as well as potentially to limit - the exercise of a wide range of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Conference will dedicate a specific session to the use of social media and social networks.

The Conference is addressed at human dimension experts and those working on broader internet governance issues, as well as interested representatives of civil society. Representatives of the ICT and media sectors will also be invited.

The Chairperson-in-Office will open the Conference. We have then invited a number of eminent experts to participate in a High-Level Panel discussion, ahead of three Working Sessions. Our hope is that the Conference will be as interactive as possible, and we have designed sessions to include ample time for discussion between the panellists and interaction with other Conference participants.

Google, whose headquarters for Europe, the Middle-East and Africa, are located in Dublin, will host an informal and interactive “Big Tent” event at The Round Room in Dublin’s Mansion House on the evening of 18 June. All delegates are warmly invited to attend this event and transport will be provided from Dublin Castle.

Informal conclusions and recommendations will be presented to the closing session, aimed at the OSCE in general, including its participating States and its executive structures, other intergovernmental organisations, and civil society actors in OSCE participating States.

A copy of the outline agenda for the Conference, together with logistical information and online registration details, are attached. An annotated agenda, including a list of speakers, will follow in the near future. I am pleased to invite representatives of the participating States, the OSCE Partners for Co-operation, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Institutions to be present for the Conference.

Given the stature and experience of the speakers who have agreed to share their time with us, I would encourage you to nominate national experts with knowledge of OSCE human dimension commitments, Internet and media freedom, as well as the broad Internet governance agenda, to participate in the Conference.

I look forward to welcoming you to Dublin for what should be an interesting and thought-provoking Conference.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank Cogan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Cogan
Head of the OSCE Taskforce
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade