

There were two sessions for launching the Net Neutrality Report, one closed meeting with Deputy Minister **Ömer Fatih Sayan** and a public panel held at the ICTA. Here is a readout which combines both.

In the meeting with Deputy Minister **Ömer Fatih Sayan**, **Leyla Keser Berber** presented the main findings and suggestions of the Report. She stated that Net Neutrality and Open Internet are important for growth in the digital economy/digital transformation, and the EU harmonization process. Since the 2015 EU Open Internet Regulation, sufficient time has passed to study main ideas and loopholes of the EU regulation and Turkey should transpose this Regulation to Turkish law by taking this country's special needs into consideration. The Report also provides a comparative analysis of EU, US regulations and the Turkish legislation and ICTA decisions--which tend to side with open Internet without a clear regulation. At the panel, Keser Berber explained the main takeaways from the Report, and how the report was written in cooperation with Facebook while other stakeholders' input was also taken into consideration.

At the public Panel:

**Mehmet Bedii Kaya**, Director of the IT Law Institute delivered opening speech and moderated the Panel.

**Sezen Yeşil**, from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, welcomed the audience on behalf of the ICTA and the Ministry.

**Leyla Keser Berber** shared insights about the evaluation of the Net Neutrality and Open Internet in the EU and the US. She stated that the Report is up to date and aligned with the current situation in the EU, BEREC and the recent developments in the US and she added that the IT Law Institute will be give updates according to the changes which might take place in near future.

**Ayça Atabey**, Research Assistant at the IT Law Institute and PhD student at Edinburgh University explained the core principles of Net Neutrality and underscored their importance in the debates rotating around NN. She has also added that all the principles and the exemptions that she talked about are crucial to understand to be able to set the scene for a road map for Turkey on its way to take steps towards the regulating Net Neutrality.

**Tonko Obuljen**, Vice Chair of BEREC and Head of Croatian regulator HOKOM, defined EU's position on the matter as precise and not, at the same time. BEREC believes in having transparency with some traffic control. Because the digital world improves very fast, overregulation hinders or stops innovation. He spoke for regulation by principle, not by specific area and service.

**Johan Keetelaar**, Head Connectivity and Access Policy at Facebook, started with saying that Facebook understands why specific countries want specific regulations on the issue. While Facebook respects countries' own rules and needs, it also seeks a set of harmonized rules. BEREC's initiatives are fully supported, and Keetelaar backed the idea that Net Neutrality should be not strict.

**Serkan Orcan**, Internet Society Board member and Turkey chapter lead, said that open Internet is good for everyone. At the panel, he shared a detailed presentation on how regulation hinders specific activities in the technology sector.

**Niamh Sweeny**, Head of Policy WhatsApp, explained in detail how WhatsApp is ready to share information with security officers when emergencies arise--especially through the emergency data request channel. Sweeny also explained the technical sides to why WhatsApp does not store personal data, and WA can only share a certain type of data with public authorities because of its digital architecture.

**Sezen Yeşil**, Head of e-Government Services at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, made the main argument that Net Neutrality was indeed regulated in Turkey. It was just not regulated via an umbrella regulation like the EU. Providing examples from competition law, and other regulations regarding telecommunication and infrastructure, Yeşil explained how specific issues of Net Neutrality were regulated by separate bodies of legal rules.