



Public Knowledge Statement of Interest

Re: CSISAC Steering Committee

Public Knowledge, based in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., nominates itself for membership on the Steering Committee of the Civil Society Information Society Advisory Committee (CSISAC), of the Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP), OECD. Public Knowledge's work relates to the following CSISAC goals: Freedom of Expression, Consumer Protection, Access to Knowledge, Internet Governance, Open Standards/Net Neutrality, Balanced IP Policies, and Digital Inclusion.

Public Knowledge was founded in 2001. Its mission is to promote the public's access to information and culture, promote balance in intellectual property laws, preserve the openness of the Internet, and ensure that laws and norms are adopted transparently and with the public's interest in mind.

Public Knowledge is a founding member of the CSISAC. It has been involved in CSISAC work, including providing input in the ICCP's ongoing report on Internet Intermediaries. For several years, Public Knowledge has worked with civil society, national government, and industry allies to ensure that the World Intellectual Property Organization crafts instruments (such as a proposed broadcasting treaty and proposed instruments on copyright limitations and exceptions) that better balance the rights of users and innovators with those of creators. As a member of the Trans Atlantic Consumer Dialogue, Public Knowledge has contributed to shaping pro-consumer policy in the areas of intellectual property and the information society. Public Knowledge is also currently involved in efforts to bring greater transparency to the Anti Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) negotiations.

Public Knowledge's domestic work focuses on preventing constraints to the flow of information. This includes a successful challenge to rules promulgated by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) which would have severely curtailed the public's ability to use lawfully acquired broadcast content. Public Knowledge has been instrumental in continuing efforts to address the problem of orphan works, i.e., works whose copyright owners cannot be found. To further its mission of protecting and preserving network neutrality, Public Knowledge filed a complaint at the FCC against Comcast Corp., a cable company that blocked its customer's Internet traffic. That complaint resulted in a finding that Comcast had interfered with their customer's lawful access to traffic.

If given an opportunity to serve on the steering committee, Public Knowledge will work to ensure that the CSISAC has an effective voice at the ICCP. More information about Public Knowledge is available at: www.publicknowledge.org.