



PREMIER MINISTRE

SECRETARIAT D'ETAT AUPRES DU PREMIER MINISTRE
CHARGE DE LA PROSPECTIVE, DE L'EVALUATION DES POLITIQUES PUBLIQUES
ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DE L'ECONOMIE NUMERIQUE

Paris, the 1st of october

PRESS INVITATION

The Internet of the Future, an asset for Europe

Eric BESSON, Secretary of State in charge of Future Studies, Public Policy Evaluation and the Development of the Digital Economy

is pleased to invite you to attend a **ministerial conference on the Internet of the Future**

on **October 6 2008 in Nice**,
at the **Acropolis**
1 esplanade Kennedy – 06302 Nice

In the framework of the French Presidency of the EU, Eric Besson will host a European conference on the Internet of the Future on October 6 and 7. On this occasion he will chair a meeting of all members of governments of EU countries in charge of IT issues.

The gathering will focus on 4 essential topics: broadband networks, new on-line services, Internet security and Internet governance.

The Internet has changed the daily lives of over 1.5 billion people worldwide. It has radically transformed the ways in which we communicate, learn, work, shop and entertain ourselves.

Internet networks and the types of activities that the Internet can be used for will keep growing over the years to come. Europe has a number of significant assets that it can use in order to become a key area for the development of new Internet services. At the same time, Europe must keep upholding its fundamental values and principles such as the protection of freedom and security and the right to privacy. As critical worldwide resources for the Internet are depleting and the agreement that regulates their allocation is nearing its 2009 expiration date, it is incumbent upon Europe to be a full partner in current international discussions on worldwide networks.

This ministerial conference will encourage the formulation of joint positions, to be included later in a draft that will be submitted on November 27 to the EU Council by the French Presidency.

Eric Besson is also launching a public consultation on the Internet of the Future in order to allow all relevant parties – companies, academics, experts, representatives of civil society – to voice their views. The consultation should translate into the drafting of an action plan indicative of France's position in the development of the Internet of the Future. Such a move should ensure that France is best prepared to take advantage of all the socioeconomic and industrial benefits involved.

Program

From 10 AM – Arrival of participating ministers – Welcome (pool image)
10:30 – Breakfast (informal, pool image)
11 – Beginning of plenary session (roundtable pool image)
12:15 PM – Official photo (pool image)
12:45-2:15 – Lunch
2:30 – Press conference
3:15 – Plenary session resumes

Registration required at <https://medias.ue2008.fr>

Access to the ministerial conference will be restricted to registered attendees only.

Please note that online registration might take a few minutes.

If you have questions please call 01 42 75 88 39.

Photo identity and a valid press card will be required.

Please confirm attendance.

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