



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General Information Society

The Director-General

Brussels, 23 March 2001
INFSO/rve D(1) 10 [IPv6]

Subject: The creation of an IPv6 Task Force

Dear Colleague

The Internet is seen to be running out of address space and this is already perceived to be affecting the growth of the Internet and of Internet-related services. This was foreseen some years ago and work has been carried out which resulted in the definition of a new version of the Internet Protocol – IPv6. The new large address space that IPv6 gives is important because it will continue to allow global connectivity even with more and more users, more and more devices and appliances and more and more services.

In particular, it appears crucial to ensure the timely availability of IPv6 in order to exploit the full potential of 3G wireless and mobile services. While the current implementation of the Internet Protocol (IPv4) can be used in the initial stages of the deployment of 3G, it will not allow for the full deployment of 3G services in the long run. IPv6 would overcome the main limitations and enable additional features, such as guaranteed quality of service and security. Implementing IPv6 mobile networks will also allow for wireless machine-to-machine interconnection, thereby considerably boosting the application of 3G. Any delay in the transition to IPv6-capable networks, which will require several years of effort, risks hindering the deployment of these advanced 3G service features at a later stage.

I am pleased to extend to you a personal invitation to participate in a new senior executives group which will review the current status in Europe of the new version of the Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6), with a view to propose, by end 2001, a comprehensive action plan including a set of measures that will accelerate the pace of development and transition to IPv6.

You will find attached the draft terms of reference for the group which includes a non-exhaustive list of the topics that could usefully be considered.

The first meeting of the group is scheduled for **23 April 2001** in Brussels. Further details of the venue will be communicated to you shortly. In the mean time I would appreciate if you could confirm your acceptance to participate to Mrs. Leen Hendrickx (tel: +32 2 2963541, fax: +32 2 2962178, email: marleentje.hendrickx@cec.eu.int).

Yours sincerely ,

Signed

Robert Verrue