Vision on Communication Networks in Europe

Problems with the Internet today
We gave much of the control away, are constantly being tracked by companies and governments and continue to walk down the road of decreasing options. Can we take back ownership and control of our digital infrastructures?

As if we sold our roads to Tesla
They promise to take good care of them and they can add all kinds of improvements and innovative concepts to them. They have a lot of expertise to introduce autonomous driving and we can count on lots of additional and convenient services. We would be surprised if somewhat later we are being stopped with our Mercedes, because it is said to damage the road and prohibit a good traffic flow. Certainly, we would be better off buying a Tesla or stay at home. Other cars (competitors) are not allowed anymore. Tesla starts dictating who travels where, at what times, with what speed and how much you pay for using the roads per kilometer and per month. You cannot reach your house by public roads anymore, because they are all bought. You cannot reach the market place for your favorite products and services by public roads. Actually, there is no public market place anymore, because the road to it has been taken away (too expensive and of no use). The free market has reached it's monopoly: All roads lead to Tesla and we can happily buy their products and services or stay at home. How restricted would we feel in our mobility and freedom?

Cooperative ownership is key
How many times have we already paid our cable and telephone network? Competition is not to be expected on the infrastructure (road) level, the competition is on the level of the services. The (local) governments could buy or invest the (local) fiber networks. Why would our digital network be less important or vital to our European society and economy than the roads, gas, electricity, water, and sewer networks? We only need one public fiber network and as quickly as possible for the whole society and economy to benefit from and at the lowest cost.
In practice, we probably have to organize this in the private domain as a cooperative. A cooperative comes close to the joint and democratic ownership of that held by a government. A cooperative at municipal scale encourages local involvement and solidarity, lines up with local laws for network construction and stays closest to the interest of the local population.

From Internet to Multinet, a Network for Everyone and Everything
With the possibility of controlling our own network, a number of opportunities arise. Different (competing) service providers can be connected in parallel through the use of separate virtual networks (VLANs). You may have a separate VLAN (and provider) for Internet, telephony/VoIP and television/IPTV. New providers may introduce services such as e-Health, security camera/elderly people monitoring, local television, etcetera. Extending this idea, we could just give everyone a VLAN of their own to interconnect the locations and devices they want. We could have a Network for Everyone and Everything, a Multinet.

Constitution of an Open Network eXchange Europe (OnXE)
How do we build our European sovereign network? Hands-on! We have many initiatives in Europe where citizens joined together to construct their own fiber network. We came across similar problems and found our ways. Now it's time to bundle our knowledge and make a strong and extensible case for open networks in Europe. To create a platform and vehicle to exchange, progress and scale our ideas, guidelines, standards and approaches to open networks, we propose the constitution of Open Network eXchange Europe (OnXE).

If you are interested to discuss or join the initiative, please contact us at info@onxe.eu**.**