OECD activities related to Internet Public Policy Issues

Sam Paltridge
OECD
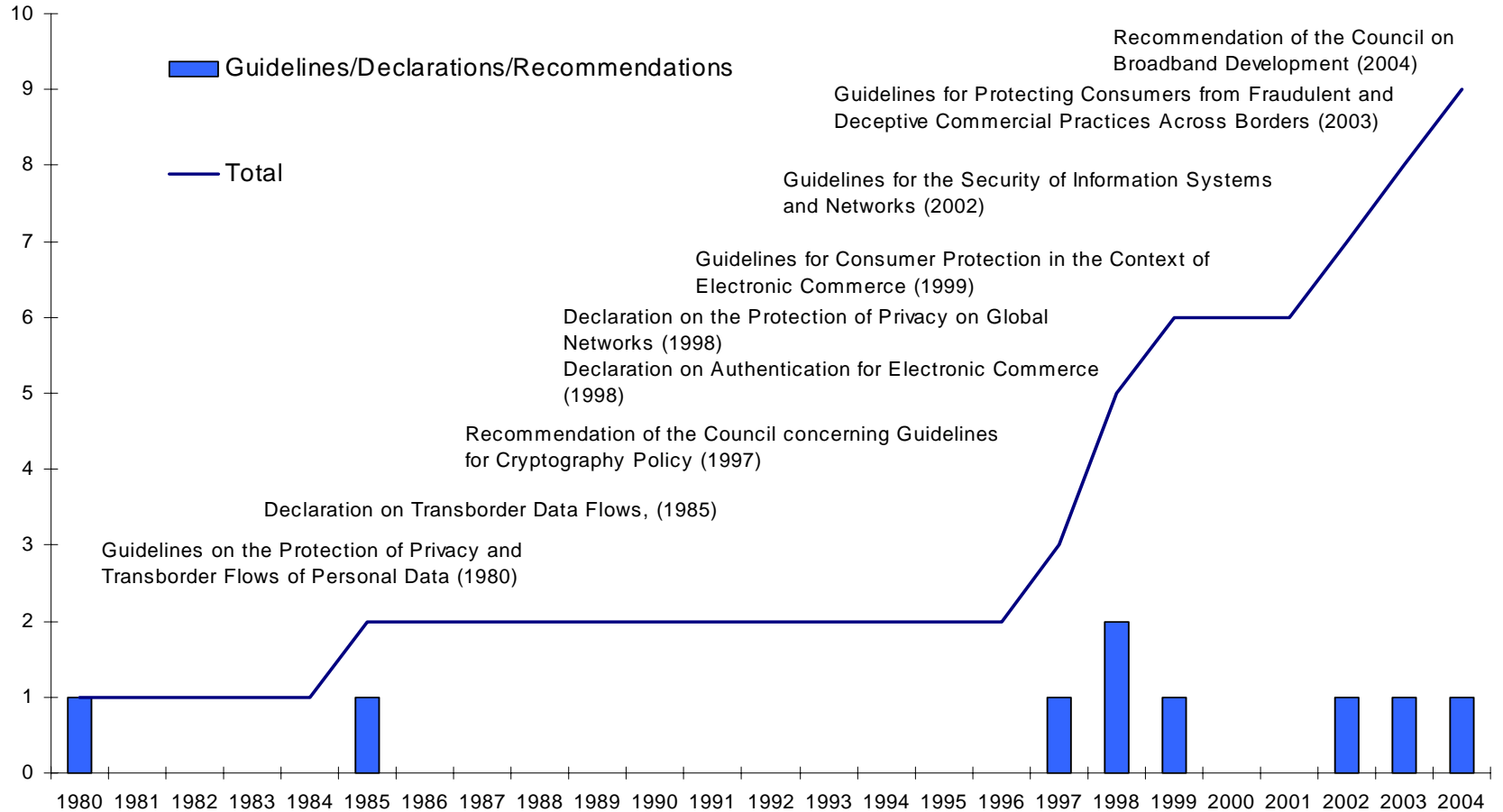ITU Workshop on Internet Governance
Geneva, 26-27 February 2004

Introducing the OECD

- The OECD groups 30 member countries sharing a commitment to democratic government and the market economy. With active relationships with some 70 other countries, NGOs and civil society

- The OECD plays a prominent role in fostering good governance in the public service and in corporate activity. This is accomplished in two ways

  - through internationally agreed instruments, decisions and recommendations to promote rules of the game in areas where multilateral agreement is necessary for individual countries to make progress in a globalised economy.

  - through dialogue, consensus, peer review and pressure. The OECD's governing body, the Council, is made up of representatives of member countries. It provides guidance on the work of OECD committees.

Promoting 'Rules of the Game' and Best Practice Policy in areas related to networks

- Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data (1980)
- Declaration on Transborder Data Flows, (1985)
- Recommendation of the Council concerning Guidelines for Cryptography Policy (1997)
- Declaration on the Protection of Privacy on Global Networks (1998)
- Declaration on Authentication for Electronic Commerce (1998)
- Guidelines for Consumer Protection in the Context of Electronic Commerce (1999)
- Guidelines for the Security of Information Systems and Networks (2002)
- Guidelines for Protecting Consumers from Fraudulent and Deceptive Commercial Practices Across Borders (2003)
- Recommendation of the Council on Broadband Development (2004)

Timeline of OECD Guidelines/Declarations/Recommendations

Recommendation of the Council on Broadband Development (2004)

Guidelines for Protecting Consumers from Fraudulent and Deceptive Commercial Practices Across Borders (2003)

Guidelines for the Security of Information Systems and Networks (2002)

Guidelines for Consumer Protection in the Context of Electronic Commerce (1999)

Declaration on the Protection of Privacy on Global Networks (1998)

Declaration on Authentication for Electronic Commerce (1998)

Recommendation of the Council concerning Guidelines for Cryptography Policy (1997)

Declaration on Transborder Data Flows, (1985)

Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data (1980)

Legend:
- Guidelines/Declarations/Recommendations
- Total

OECD **«** 4 OCDE

OECD Policy Discussion

- Majority of OECD work related to Internet public policy issues occurs through the Committee on Information Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP).
  - This includes security and privacy, telecommunication policy, and broader information economy issues. Examples of areas of work include: Internet Traffic Exchange: Developments and Policy (1998) and Internet traffic exchange and the development of end-to-end international telecommunication competition (2002)
  - This work is also made available to other international forums such as, in the case of Internet traffic exchange, to ITU's Study Group 3 and APEC.
- ICCP provided one of the forums for the first international discussions on domain names between governments prior to the creation of ICANN.
  - Internet Domain Name Allocation Policies (1997)
  - Comparing domain name administration in OECD countries (2003)
- Other OECD Committees that have worked on public policy issues that bear on Internet include Fiscal Affairs and Consumer Policy in the course of their work on taxation, electronic commerce and consumer protection.

The OECD also provides wider forums for International Discussion

- From Ministerial meetings (e.g. e-commerce Ottawa, 1998) through to regional outreach conferences beyond OECD area (e.g. Dubai, 2001 & 2002) through to smaller workshops.

- OECD conducted a series of workshops, beginning in Dublin (1996), which brought together government, international organisations, industry, civil society and academia to discuss issues related to Internet infrastructure including names and addresses. Others include: Osaka (1998), Venice (2000), Berlin (2001) and Seoul (2002). A workshop on rural broadband access is planned for 2004.

- spam - Hosted by the European Commission, this OECD workshop explored the growing problem of spam, with a focus on the international dimension. Over 260 participants from government, business, civil society and the media met to explore the spam phenomenon on 2-3 February 2004. A follow up meeting in Korea is planned for 2004.

The OECD and ICANN

- The OECD has participated as a member of ICANN's Government Advisory Committee since its inception.

- The OECD also participates on two GAC working groups:
  - Policies for new Generic TLDs (gTLDs)
  - Whois

- This participation provides the OECD with an avenue to make our views and the results of our work available to GAC and to ICANN where is bears on their work.