



Above: View from the flight deck of EuroPetition project team meeting [Malaga, June 2009]

Any citizen, acting individually or jointly with others, may at any time exercise his right of petition to the European Parliament under Article 194 of the EC Treaty.

The [EuroPetition](#) project is picking up pace with local ePetition systems already live in a number of the participating localities, such as [Malmö](#) (Sweden) and [Birmingham](#) (UK). Recent deliverables outline the intended EuroPetition architecture, due to be deployed later in the year, and give significant insight into both local and European ePetition practices.

The committee responsible for petitions to the European Parliament is [PETI](#), [view them in action for a unique insight into their work](#) (Last meeting before elections - 30th April 2009 which includes a discussion on a new PETI 'code of conduct').

Ultimately the project hopes to spawn a [European Citizens' Initiative](#). Watch MEP [Diana Wallis discuss the ECI from her own perspective](#).

Young people share on-line concerns

In order to find out in more detail what Internet issues interest and worry young people the [HuWY](#) project organised a residential workshop in Ireland at the end of June.

Sixteen young people (aged 15 -20) attended the three-day event which helped explore what the young people thought of the project, how they would get other young people to engage with the project and how best to present the complex issues around Internet



governance.

The topics that were rated most highly weren't particularly surprising:

- Cyberbullying
- Child abuse & Paedophilia
- ID Theft, Privacy & Phishing
- Internet safety for young people
- Buying and selling online
- File-sharing

As expected the issues that have the most potential for harm were rated as more important. The young people also rated those issues which they could relate most easily to their own experiences.

Some of the key results from the discussions included:

- a sense that legislation leads to prohibition which would only lead to dealing with symptoms at best or pushing the issue along at worst
- issues on-line are reflections of issues in the wider world - you can't solve on-line issues without dealing with off-line issues also
- the importance of education rather than legislation
- the key question about whether their views actually be taken on board by policy-makers

[HuWY](#) partners are now deciding which of these topics will be used in each pilot country (Estonia, Germany, Republic of Ireland and UK) and how to structure the information so that different users (e.g. young people or politicians) are presented with topics in the most relevant and useful way.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1-3/09/09 > **Austria:** [ePart'09](#)

7-8/09/09> **Austria:** [eDem'09](#)

10-12/09/09> **Germany** [5th ECPR General Conference](#)

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