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**Digital Rights Advocacy and the Future of Internet Governance**

This paper reports on findings of an ongoing research project on communication rights in the Information Society. Digital rights advocates have promoted policy reforms to strengthen personal privacy protections online from corporate and state surveillance activities. This paper presents the current regulatory framework affecting digital policies in the European Union as a qualitatively different and distinct regime as compared to what exists in the United States. Describing and explaining the distinction as a "policy gap" helps to demonstrate the stakes of online privacy protections in Europe for citizens, consumers and corporations. The policy gap stands to grow even wider as activist groups pressure the EU to adopt additional measures protecting against statesponsored online surveillance.

Digital privacy policies in the European Union reflect, on the one hand, a growing "policy gap" with the United States, and on the other hand, an internal pluralization and intensification of policy debates. The "policy gap" reflects a longstanding tendency of EU policymakers and national governments to provide a level of protection for personally identifying information stored in databases, as compared to the absence of such protections available to citizens in the United States. The policy gap between the EU and US stands to widen as policy reformers in civil society and in European Parliament alliances seek to expand European laws to cover governmental surveillance, as well. The paper presents a preliminary report for an analysis of the debate.