
EU Closes blog

Posted by johnfranklyn - 2008/09/24 08:11

The EU have just had the blog England Expects closed down as it spoke out against EU Policy.

It is unfortunate that if you have one these blogs owned by google, they are easy for an authority to complain about and have closed.

Maybe, if they got things right and allowed people involvement at all levels, people wouldn't need to blog to get their voices heard.

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Re:EU Closes blog

Posted by johnfranklyn - 2008/09/24 08:28

Euro MPs to vote on anonymous blog ban
<http://xrl.us/orz23>

Euro MPs are preparing to vote on proposals for European Union regulation of blogs with the aim of countering a "dangerous" and unregulated blogosphere.

By Bruno Waterfield in Brussels
Last Updated: 6:41PM BST 22 Sep 2008

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Marianne Mikko, an Estonian centre-left MEP, is concerned that growing numbers of blogs are being used by individuals with "malicious intentions or hidden agendas".

"The blogosphere has so far been a haven of good intentions and relatively honest dealing. However, with blogs becoming commonplace, less principled people will want to use them," she said.

Mrs Mikko has proposed that bloggers should be required to identify themselves and that some popular blogs should come with a declaration of interests.

"We do not need to know the exact identity of bloggers. We need some credentials, a quality mark, a certain disclosure of who is writing and why. We need this to be able to trust and rely on the source," she said.

Chris Heaton Harris, a British Conservative Euro MP, has rejected any moves to "regulate and restrict independent media sources".

"Mrs Mikko obviously does not understand that blogs have become the life blood of a vibrant democracy," he said.

"I hope these proposals are kicked out."

Thursday's vote in the European Parliament is not legally binding but is an indicator of growing EU concern over the influence of blogs on the internet.

A recent internal European Commission report, leaked three weeks ago, found that the EU was losing the battle for hearts and minds online.

"Blog activity remains overwhelmingly negative," it said.

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