



**Mrs Viviane Reding**  
**Vice-President/ European Commission/**  
**Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship**

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Dear Commissioner Reding:**

We welcome your appeal of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 that launched the largest public consultation on the rights of citizens which was another boost for development of the civil society and Pan-European democracy.

Thirteen months ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011, we wrote to the European Commission urging it to undertake necessary steps in providing a universal access to Wi-Fi in all public areas (hotels, airports, restaurants, cafes, petrol stations, stadiums, schools, universities, theatres, shopping malls, parks, vehicle stops and stations, public restrooms etc), in all public transportation vehicles (airplanes, subway, trains, shuttles, boats etc.) as well as in all Governmental and Municipal offices and private real estate properties on EU territory. This proposal is purely market based: we plead for free access to Wi-Fi, not for access to free Wi-Fi.

Nowadays, universal Internet access is equivalent to the basic human rights, as the UN Report on the *Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression* from May 16th, 2011 points out. Furthermore, on 5th July 2012 for the first time United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a Resolution that affirmed freedom of expression in internet as a human right.

Internet connection has to be treated like the rest of the utility services in the democratic world such as access to water, electricity, restroom, heating, lift etc. Nowadays, to pay €10-15 per hour for Internet at a luxury hotel in Europe is equivalent to be surcharged for hot water or TV set in this same hotel. Therefore based on the Lisbon Treaty (Article 294 of the TFEU), the European Commission is in its legislative right to stimulate the establishment of universal access to Wi-Fi as a basic human right.

And we encourage you to do so.

Sincerely yours,

**Dr.SolomonPassy**

President & Founder/Atlantic Club Bulgaria  
Foreign Minister (2001-2005)  
Past Chairman of UN Security Council, of OSCE  
and Parliamentary Committees

**Gergana Passy**

President / PanEuropa Bulgaria  
EU Minister (2007-2009)  
Past Deputy Foreign Minister and MP  
Bulgarian Digital Champion