



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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FCC RELEASES CHAIRMAN VIDEO ADDRESS, NEW MEDIA RESOURCES ON THIRD WAY LEGAL APPROACH

Washington, D.C. -- In an online video address released today, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski explains the suggested “third way” approach developed by FCC staff to secure a solid legal foundation for broadband policy in the wake of the recent *Comcast* court decision.

The FCC also launched a series of new media resources at Broadband.gov -- including blog posts, frequently asked questions, and a glossary of terms -- to educate the public about the complex, technical legal issues involved. These resources will be updated on an ongoing basis.

FCC Chairman Genachowski video address [available here](#).
FCC Chairman Genachowski blog post [available here](#).
FCC General Counsel Austin Schlick blog post [available here](#).
Frequently Asked Questions [available here](#).
Glossary of terms [available here](#).

Full transcript of Chairman Genachowski’s video address below:

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission

The Third Way: The Future of Internet Policy in America **Online Video Address**

Hello, I’m Julius Genachowski, Chairman of the FCC.

[I’ve announced] a suggested path forward -- a “[third way](#)” approach -- for the FCC to address the serious legal issues raised by the recent court decision in the [Comcast case](#).

I [blogged about this](#) on Broadband.gov, where you can also find a [deeper explanation](#) of the legal issues from FCC General Counsel Austin Schlick.

The legal issues are [complex](#).

But what’s at stake is whether we can move forward with policies that advance the global competitiveness of the U.S., and preserve the Internet as a powerful platform for innovation, free speech, and job creation.

We need a solid legal foundation to make sure we can implement the [National Broadband Plan](#) and pursue policies like:

- extending high-speed broadband to all Americans wherever they live;
- protecting and empowering consumers, and ensuring healthy and fair competition;
- promoting the safety of the public, through E911 and initiatives to guard against cyber attack;
- lowering the costs of broadband investment and accelerating deployment; and
- preserving the freedom and openness of the Internet.

We need to do this in a way that reflects an appropriate view of [the role of government](#). One that takes a light-touch approach to fast-changing technologies. One that reflects a strong belief in the free market and in private investment as essential engines of economic growth; the importance of a healthy return on investment; the powerful role that entrepreneurs, innovators, startups, and small businesses must play in fueling job creation and American economic success.

And also an understanding that the government has a vital but limited role in advancing common goals.

Prior to the [Comcast decision](#), there had been a consensus -- a status quo -- about the FCC's role and authority to advance broadband initiatives that are so important to all Americans.

The goal of the [third way](#) approach that we announce is to restore that status quo. It is a narrow and tailored approach that will ensure we can protect and empower consumers, foster healthy competition, promote strong investment and innovation -- that we have a vibrant, open, world-leading broadband Internet available to all Americans.

This third way is an approach based on my belief that the extreme alternatives to a light-touch approach are unacceptable. Heavy-handed prescriptive regulation can chill investment and innovation, and a do-nothing approach can leave consumers unprotected and competition unpromoted, which itself would ultimately lead to reduced investment and innovation.

It is also an approach that [does not involve regulating the Internet](#). It would preserve the freedom and openness of the Internet. It flows from a deep recognition that one of the Internet's greatest strengths -- its unprecedented power to foster innovation and free speech -- stems from the absence of any central controlling authority, either public or private. The approach should not and does not involve regulating the Internet.

I encourage everyone to learn more about this at [Broadband.gov](#). I will ask my Commission colleagues to join me in soon launching a public process seeking comment on the issues raised by the court decision. We will seek input on all options, and invite new ideas. I call on all stakeholders to work with us productively to solve the problem the Comcast decision has created in order to ensure a solid legal foundation for protecting consumers, promoting innovation and job creation, and fostering a world-leading broadband infrastructure for all Americans.

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News and information about the Federal Communications Commission is available at [www.fcc.gov](#).