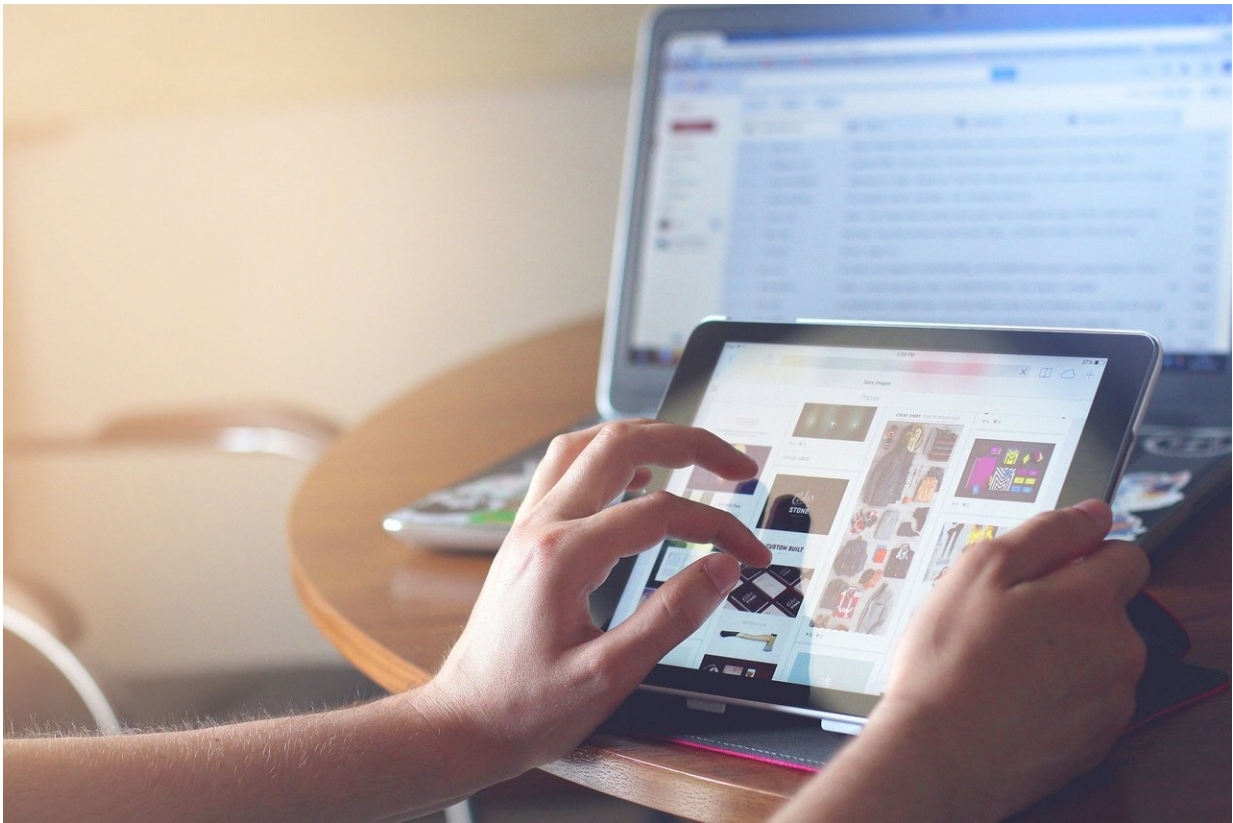


# German government says it backs 'open and free internet'

December 15 2017

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The German government says it backs an "open and free internet" following the U.S. decision to repeal net neutrality rules.

A spokeswoman for the Economy Ministry said Friday that Germany had "taken note" of the U.S. move but declined to comment directly on it.

However, spokeswoman Beate Baron said the German government supports rules introduced across the European Union last year forbidding discriminatory access to the internet.

Baron told reporters in Berlin that "an open and free internet is indispensable for the successful development of a digital society that everyone wants to take part in."

The Republican-controlled U.S. Federal Communications Commission on Thursday repealed Obama-era rules requiring all web traffic to be treated equally.

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Citation: German government says it backs 'open and free internet' (2017, December 15) retrieved 27 January 2023 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-12-german-free-internet.html>

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