

**ON THE 16TH OCTOBER 2012 EDWARD GOODMAN, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIR OF CAC, PARTICIPATED IN A VOICE OF RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL BROADCAST ABOUT THE PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR PROSECUTION OF TWITTER USERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. OTHER PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED THE DEPUTY EDITOR OF INDEX ON CENSORSHIP, AND THE CHAIR OF THE BIRKENHEAD FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION GROUP.**

**GOODMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT 2003 CRIMINALISED GROSSLY OFFENSIVE ELECTRONIC MESSAGES. HE THEREFORE STATED THAT THE SOLUTION WAS NOT MORE LIBERAL PROSECUTION GUIDELINES, BUT THE REPEAL OF SPECIAL CRIMINALISATION OF TWITTER USERS, SO THAT ONLY THE GENERAL LAWS OF LIBEL AND INCITEMENT APPLIED.**

**THE CHAIR OF THE BIRKENHEAD GROUP POINTED OUT THAT THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ALLOWED THE STATE TO IMPOSE CENSORSHIP TO PROTECT PUBLIC MORALS AND PREVENT DISORDER. HE THEREFORE STATED THAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDED A CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, LIKE THE USA.**