

**Ομιλία του Προέδρου της ΕΕΤΤ,
Καθηγητή Νικήτα Αλεξανδρίδη**

**στο πλαίσιο του δείπνου προς τιμήν του
Δρ. Robert E.Kahn**

Ξενοδοχείο Μεγάλη Βρετανία, 23 Μαΐου 2006

N. ALEXANDRIDIS: Presidents of the Independent Agencies of Greece, members of the Parliament Committee on Research and Development, high level officials of the State and of the Communication and Information Technology Sector, welcome and thank you for coming to the event.

We are very happy to have with us today Dr. Kahn and as you probably all know, Dr. Kahn is the father of the Internet. When EETT extended the invitation to him, we were quite thrilled that he accepted to put Athens on his busy schedule and busy travel itinerary, to come here and share with us some of his experiences, ideas, problems, hurdles that they went through in designing, building, developing and enhancing the Internet.

I will not read his entire resume, which you have received with the invitation. I only want to say that he was one of the first pioneers in working for the DARPA, the Defense Agency. He coined the term “National Information Infrastructure”, which was later known widely as the “Information Super-highway”. He was in a number of presidential boards and councils of the United States.

His talk today will be on the Internet, past, present and future. He will share with us some of his experiences; how things started when he and Professor Len Kleinrock at UCLA were trying to do the first exchange of a digital message; how the late invited Vint Cerf to join the group. He will tell us what are some of the current challenges, what are some of the opportunities, what made Internet the modern “agora” where everybody gathers and freely and openly says and writes and speaks his or her mind freely.

At the end of his presentation, he may be willing to take a few questions from the audience and then, I would like to ask you to please, join me in welcoming Dr. Kahn at this event that is organized by EETT.