

BEYOND THE DIGITAL DECADE: NEW RULES, NEW CHALLENGES FOR DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND TELECOMS

WIK Conference, 24 - 25 September 2024
Brussels, Belgium

Programme

1st day: 24 September 2024

IMPLEMENTING EUROPE'S NEW ACQUIS ON
DIGITAL PLATFORMS

08:30 – 09:30 Welcome & Registration

09:00 – 10:30

IMPLEMENTING EUROPE'S NEW DATA SHARING RULES

New rules for data sharing will enter into force in Sept 2025. Amongst other provisions, the legislation seeks to facilitate access to data generated by connected products, ensure fair terms for data sharing and facilitate switching between cloud providers. In this session we explore what steps will be needed to implement the new rules and how businesses can take advantage of the opportunities for data access and porting.

Bjoern Juretzki, Head of Unit Data Policy and Innovation, DG CNECT EC

Prof. Heike Schweitzer, Humboldt University, Berlin

Jeremy Rollison, Head of EU Policy, Microsoft

Danielle Jacobs, CEO Beltug (business end-user association)

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30

LESSONS FROM THE FIRST YEAR OF THE DIGITAL SERVICES ACT

The Digital Services Act has introduced new measures which seek to protect consumers from hate speech and misinformation online, including requirements regarding content moderation and risk assessment for very large online platforms. These provisions (and the ability of the European Commission and national Digital Service Co-ordinators to effectively enforce them) will be tested to the full with upcoming elections and the inclusion of pornographic platforms within the list of very large online platforms. The Commission has already announced formal proceedings for non-compliance against X and TikTok under the DSA. Platforms will also need to comply with new requirements stemming from the DSA around transparency in advertising and the ban on exposing children to targeted advertising based on their personal data. In this session we will hear from the European Commission, DSCs, large platforms and civil rights organisations about progress in implementation and the challenges that lie ahead.

KEYNOTE

Rita Wezenbeek, Director for Platforms, DG CNECT, European Commission

Sally Broughton Micova, CERRE Academic Co-Director and an Associate Professor in Communications Policy and Politics at the University of East Anglia

Alessandro Polidoro, Digital Rights advocate and technology lawyer

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

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13:30 – 15:30

ENFORCING THE DIGITAL MARKETS ACT

The Digital Markets Act seeks to promote fair and open digital markets by applying constraints on the conduct of gatekeeper platforms. Key requirements include prohibitions on self-preferencing and steering, enabling alternative app stores and direct downloads of applications, support for vertical interoperability and requirements to make key data including advertising data available to competitors and/or customers. In this session, Alberto Bacchiega, Director for digital platforms at DG Comp, European Commission provides an overview of the actions taken to enforce the DMA. His intervention will be followed by two mini-panels in which industry representatives discuss issues relating to (i) mobile ecosystems; and (ii) search and advertising.

KEYNOTE

Alberto Bacchiega, Director, European Commission

Paulo Trezentos, CEO and co-founder, Aptoide

DuckDuckGo, speaker tbc

HOTREC, speaker tbc

Allegro, speaker tbc

15:30 – 16:00 *Break*

16:00 – 16:30

KEYNOTE: ENSURING FAIRNESS FOR CONSUMERS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The European Commission is due to report on its fitness check on EU consumer law before Summer 2024. A key question the initiative will address is whether additional action is needed to ensure fairness for consumers in the digital age. In this keynote address, we hear from Nils Behrndt, the Deputy Director General at DG JUST about the progress of this exercise and next steps.

KEYNOTE

Nils Behrndt, Deputy Director-General for Digital transformation, Justice and Consumers, DG JUST European Commission

16:30 – 17:00

KEYNOTE: DIGITAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW COMMISSION

In this opening session, Renate Nikolay, Deputy Director General at DG CNECT, European Commission reflects on the achievements of the Von der Leyen Commission in the digital field and highlights remaining challenges and opportunities for the years ahead.

KEYNOTE

Renate Nikolay, Deputy Director General, DG CNECT European Commission

17:00 – 18:00

EUROPE'S NEW PLATFORM RULES - FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND EARLY LESSONS

In this session, leaders from academia, citizens' rights groups and industry discuss their experience with the new EU digital acquis.

KEYNOTE

Agustin Reyna, Director of Legal and Economic Affairs BEUC- appointed DG

Alexandre de Stree, Professor Namur University, Academic Director CERRE, Chair EU expert group Platform economy, Visiting Professor College of Europe and SciencesPo Paris

Jan Penfrat, Senior Policy Advisor, EDRI

18:00 – 19:00 *Cocktails*

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2nd day: 25 September 2024

TELECOMS POLICY: TIME FOR A RETHINK?

08:30 – 09:00 Welcome

09:00 – 10:00 **PRIORITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

In this session Kamila Kloc, Director Digital Decade and Connectivity at the European Commission and Tonko Obuljen discuss the priorities for the European Commission and BEREC in meeting Europe's digital infrastructure needs.

KEYNOTE **Kamila Kloc**, Director, Electronic Communications, European Commission

KEYNOTE **Tonko Obuljen**, Chair BEREC, HAKOM

10:00 – 11:30 **KEYNOTE DEBATE: FUTURE RULES FOR THE TELECOM SECTOR**

In February 2024, the Commission launched a white paper with wide-ranging proposals for the future regulation of the telecom sector. These include proposals to expand the scope of the EU Electronic Communications Code to include cloud, set a target of 2030 for copper switch-off, phase out ex ante regulation, introduce an EU-wide virtual access product, harmonise spectrum authorisation processes, and establish a country of origin principle for certain activities in the telecom field. In this session, we hear the perspectives of the Commission, BEREC and leading industry representatives on these proposed new measures.

Kamila Kloc, Director, Electronic Communications, European Commission

Robert Mourik, ComReg, BEREC Chair 2025

Juan Montero Rodil, Telefonica Group Chief Public Policy, Competition & Regulatory Officer

Richard Feasey, Inquiry Chair UK Competition & Markets Authority, CERRE senior advisor, Member of National Infrastructure Commission for Wales

Ingrid Malfait, Director European Affairs, Iliad Group

Federico Boccardi, Head of Connectivity Policy Europe for Amazon Web Services

11:30 – 12:00 Break

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12:00 – 13:00

DEBATING THE CASE FOR CONSOLIDATION

In recent years we have seen a renewed push for in-market consolidation with high profile mobile merger cases in countries such as Spain and the UK. The business model underlying infrastructure companies including Towercos and fibre JVs is also based on limiting duplication in infrastructure and maximising wholesale market shares. In this session we hear from competition authorities and operators about the benefits and threats of consolidation and debate how far competition policy should go in constraining these developments.

KEYNOTE

Carlota Reyners Fontana, Acting Digital Advisor, Cabinet von der Leyen, European Commission

Ben Wreschner, Group Regulatory Policy Director, Vodafone

Luigi Di Gaetano, Deputy Head AGCM (Italian competition authority)

Peter Alexiadis, Visiting Professor Kings College London, CERRE

13:00 – 13:20

DEVELOPMENTS IN STATE AID IN THE WAKE OF THE NEW BROADBAND GUIDELINES

In this session, we hear how State Aid has evolved following the adoption of the 2022 EC Broadband Guidelines. A key focus will be on how State Aid has been used to support achievement of the Gigabit broadband targets and support full coverage and densification of 5G. The implications of the new Guidelines on award conditions such as environmental standards and wholesale access obligations will also be explored.

Krzysztof Kuik, Head of Unit, ICT State Aid DG COMP, European Commission

13:20 – 14:20 Lunch

14:20 – 15:00

ACHIEVING THE GIGABIT CONNECTIVITY TARGETS - CASE STUDIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

In this session, we hear from regulatory authorities about the strategies they used to achieve universal Gigabit coverage and full 5G.

Dr Daniela Broenstrup, incoming Vice-President BNetzA

Emmanuel Gabla, Member of Board ARCEP

15:00 – 15:25

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES IN BROADBAND: THE GERMAN EXPERIENCE WITH COPPER SWITCH-OFF AND MORE

In this session, we hear how the German authorities have addressed practical challenges relating to the implementation of the EECC. Topics addressed will include Germany's preparations and trials for copper switch-off and its approach to defining "adequate broadband" in the context of the Universal Service obligation. The role of Germany's industry group, the broadband forum will also be explored.

Dr Cara Schwarz-Schilling, General Manager, WIK

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A VIEW FROM OUTSIDE: THE SWISS MODEL

Switzerland has pursued a distinct approach in both deployment and regulation of telecoms. In this session, we hear from the CEO of Swiss fibre operator Init7 about the implications of the Swiss model for competition and investment and whether there are lessons to be learned for the rest of Europe.

Fredy Kunzler, CEO, Init7

15:40 – 16:00

Break

16:00 – 17:30

PREPARING FOR THE NEW GIGABIT INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

The new Gigabit Infrastructure Act must be implemented within the coming year. In this session we focus on how new provisions in the Act such as those on in-building fibre infrastructure, access to public facilities, and transformation of permitting systems can be implemented with the benefit of experience from authorities that are ahead of the curve.

Prof. Jürgen Kühling, LL.M., University Regensburg

Klaus Steinmaurer, Executive Director Telecommunications and Postal Services, RTR-GmbH

Daniel Pataki, Director of Regulation and European Affairs Cellnex

AGCOM, speaker tbc

17:30

Conference close