

The future of connectivity

WIK Conference, 16-17 October 2018, Brussels

– Draft Programme (as of 8 June) –

Tuesday 16 October

Exploring the new Code and financing for broadband

09.30-10.30 INTRODUCING THE NEW ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS CODE

In this opening session, Anthony Whelan, Director for electronic communications at the European Commission introduces the EU electronic communications Code and answers your questions about its provisions, impacts and the next steps towards implementation.

Chair: Iris Henseler-Unger

Anthony Whelan	European Commission
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10.30-11.00 BREAK

11.00-12.30 A NEW COMPACT FOR FIBRE?

The electronic communications Code envisages a greater role for infrastructure-based competition and commercial deals in defining the structure of telecom markets going forward. However, at the same time, policy-makers have pressed for greater powers to enable regulators to intervene to address oligopolistic markets and bottlenecks to competition. In this session we will explore what the new Code will mean for the market analysis process and SMP regulation that has underpinned telecom access regulation since 2002. Has the ladder of investment been up-ended? Under what circumstances can telecom markets escape ex ante regulation, and what reaction can we expect from operators and investors?

Ilsa Godlovitch	WIK	Navigating the new market analysis process
Marc Bourreau	Telecom Paristech	Revisiting the ladder of investment
Ben Wreschner	Vodafone	Implications of the Code for fibre investors

12.30-13.30 LUNCH

13.30-15.00 LESSONS AND PROSPECTS FOR 5G

The European Commission has set out ambitious targets for Europe to gain a leading role in 5G technologies and applications by 2025. In this session we explore developments in the auctioning of 5G spectrum within Europe and beyond, as well as experiences from 5G trials. We also discuss how the provisions of the electronic communications Code may affect spectrum assignments and conditions going forwards, and the implications for competition and investment in new licensed and unlicensed wireless technologies.

Bernd Sörries	WIK	5G challenges and implications of the electronic communications code
Kip Meek	Communications Chambers	5G auctions – experience from the UK

15.00-15.30 BREAK

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15.30-17.00 BRIDGING THE GAP: A NEW ROLE FOR STATE AID?

The European Commission has estimated that there will be a funding gap of more than €150bln in delivering its fixed and wireless Gigabit targets. In the context of the ongoing negotiations for the next multi-annual financing framework, we discuss experience with EU and national aid programmes for broadband and consider the case for further public intervention to bridge the gap in pursuit of a Gigabit society.

Carlota Reyners-Fontana	European Commission	EU financing regimes
Gabrielle Gauthey tbc		
Iris Henseler-Unger	WIK	The State aid regime in Germany

Wednesday 17 October

Visions for a Gigabit society

09.30-10.45 KEYNOTE SPEECH: HAVE WE REACHED THE END-GAME OF TELECOMMUNICATION POLICY?

In the closing session of the conference, Prof Ingo Vogelsang reflects on the future telecom policy in light of the anticipated EU electronic communications Code. Telecommunications policy has come a long way from regulation of vertically integrated monopolies to the current state of competition. As competition becomes self-sustainable, will telecommunications policy in the form of industry-specific regulation go away or, if not, what form will it take?

Chair: Iris Henseler-Unger

Keynote	Prof.Ingo Vogelsang	Boston University
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10.45-11.15 BREAK

11.15-13.00 KEYNOTE SESSION: VISIONS FOR A GIGABIT SOCIETY

In this keynote session, we hear the visions of leading policy-makers on the next steps towards a Gigabit society. Elisabetta Ripa, the CEO of Open Fiber discusses new models for fibre deployment and Wilhelm Eschweiler, Vice-President of BNetzA speaks about Germany's strategy for a Gigabit society and the role of 'open access'.

Chair: Iris Henseler-Unger

Keynote	Elisabetta Ripa	CEO Open Fiber
Keynote	Willhelm Eschweiler	Vice-President BNetzA

13.00 CLOSING REMARKS