

# NEW RULES FOR THE DIGITAL DECADE

WIK Conference, 6 - 7 September 2022  
Club of the University Foundation, Egmontstreet 11, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

2<sup>nd</sup> day: 7 September 2022

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN TELECOMS REGULATION

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome

09:30 – 10:30

## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS REGULATION: DEVELOPMENTS, CHALLENGES AND FUTURE TRENDS

*In this opening session, we will hear from Rita Wezenbeek, Director of electronic communications for the European Commission, about upcoming initiatives in telecoms, including the proposal for the review of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive, Access Recommendation and funding support for Gigabit broadband. Thereafter, Kostas Masselos, incoming Chair of BEREC will provide an overview of the main challenges for NRAs during the COVID pandemic and their role in shaping the regulatory agenda. We will hear about BEREC's experience and plans concerning the Guidelines on very high capacity networks and co-investment. We will also hear about the potential role for BEREC NRAs in supporting the wider sustainability agenda, overseeing the platform economy and ensuring the resilience and security of networks in the context of global threats.*

Chair

Cara Schwarz-Schilling, General Manager, WIK-Consult

KEYNOTE	Rita Wezenbeek, Director Electronic Communications, European Commission
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KEYNOTE	Prof. Kostas Masselos, incoming BEREC Chair 2023, President of EETT
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10:30 – 11:00

## WHAT FUTURE FOR THE REGULATION OF THE SECTOR?

*With renewed pressure for consolidation and a trend towards commercial agreements and commitments for co-investment, leading representatives from telecoms operators discuss their vision for the future structure of the sector, and the role that ex ante regulation could and should play.*

Chair

Cara Schwarz-Schilling, General Manager, WIK-Consult

Reinald Krüger, Director Policy and public affairs, Vodafone Group

Marc Schütze, Vice President Regulation, United Internet and 1&1

11:00 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:50

## EXAMINING THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE BROADBAND COST REDUCTION DIRECTIVE

*In this session, we examine the Commission's upcoming proposals for the review of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive, look at best practice implementation of these principles, and highlight possible areas for debate as the proposed Directive is reviewed by Council and Parliament. We will explore what actions can be taken to support full 5G deployment and the streamlining of permit granting processes. The implications for local authorities will be considered alongside impacts for electronic communications operators. We will also look more closely at possible approaches to standardising in-building infrastructure including in-building fibre. The evolving relationship between the EECC and BCRD will also be explored.*

Chair

Cara Schwarz-Schilling, General Manager, WIK-Consult

Ilisa Godlovitch, Director Brussels, WIK-Consult

Staffan Ingvarsson, CEO of Business Region Stockholm

Ralf Capito, Director External Affairs, Vantage Towers

Ruben Vlek, Sales Manager MOOR platform, Roxit

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12:50 – 13:10

## IMPLEMENTING THE BCRD: THE GERMAN EXPERIENCE

Germany has been at the forefront of efforts to reduce broadband deployment costs through multi-sectoral collaboration. In this keynote address, Wilhelm Eschweiler, Vice-President of BNetzA discusses the experience of the German regulatory authority in building an infrastructure database and establishing rules to boost infrastructure sharing. He also discusses future ambitions and Germany's plans to facilitate cost reductions in 5G.

KEYNOTE

Wilhelm Eschweiler, Vice-President BNetzA

13:10 – 14:10 Lunch Break

14:10 – 14:50

## THE COMMISSION'S NEW ACCESS RECOMMENDATION

The Commission is conducting a Review of the Recommendations on "Next Generation Access", "cost methodologies and non-discrimination". In this session, we hear from DG Connect about the experience with the implementation of the current Recommendations and what changes they are proposing to make to foster competition and investment in Gigabit broadband and reflect the requirements of the Code.

Chair

Cara Schwarz-Schilling, General Manager, WIK-Consult  
European Commission representative tbc

14:50 – 15:50

## CASE STUDIES IN SMP REGULATION

In this session, with the aid of case studies from Sweden, Italy and France, we look at how VHCN is impacting market definitions, and how regulation is adapting to focus on fostering VHCN and facilitating migration. Areas of focus include the role of physical infrastructure access (PIA) as an SMP remedy or market, switch-off practices and pricing of copper in the transition to VHCN, and the role of co-investment and commercial arrangements as an alternative to VHCN regulation.

Chair

Ilsa Godlovitch, Director, Brussels WIK-Consult  
Dan Sjöblom, CEO, PTS  
Emmanuel Gabla, Member of Board ARCEP VP, BEREC 2022

15:50 – 16:20 Break

16:20 – 17:00

## PUBLIC FUNDING AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW BROADBAND STATE AID GUIDELINES

A significant portion of the FTTH still to be developed will rely on public funds from national or EU sources. Public subsidies may also be required to achieve coverage of mid-band 5G outside populated zones. In this session we will look at the funding sources available for infrastructure including the CEF2 programme and post-COVID recovery funds, and consider what implications the Commission's new State Aid Guidelines may have for the award and management of public funds used for network deployment. We will also examine the different business and ownership models that can be used to support publicly funded networks.

Chair

Ilsa Godlovitch, Director, Brussels WIK-Consult  
Thomas Plückebaum, Director, Head of Department, WIK-Consult

17:00 Conference close