

# WIK CONFERENCE 2025 - Programme

## What direction for digital policy in the geopolitical era?

16 - 17 September 2025

### 1<sup>st</sup> day: 16 September 2025

#### Digital platforms and the data economy

09:00 - 09:30 Welcome & Registration

#### 09:30 - 10:30 NEXT STEPS FOR THE DATA ACT: FACILITATING DATA SHARING, CLOUD INTEROPERABILITY AND SWITCHING

*The Data Act will enter into force on 12 September 2025, bringing with it a wideranging set of measures to unlock data sharing and the interoperability of cloud services. In this session, we will hear about steps to develop a repository for key standards and specifications for cloud services and measures to limit switching charges. We will also hear from ARCEP, about its analysis of cloud markets and the challenges ahead for regulatory authorities in implementing the Data Act.*

**Speaker TBC**, WIK-Consult GmbH

**Sarah Jacquier-Pelissier**, Board Member, ARCEP

10:30 - 11:00 Break

#### 11:00 - 11:45 PROTECTING CONSUMERS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

*In recent months, the Commission has taken important steps in the enforcement of the Digital Services Act, publishing draft Guidelines on the protection of minors as well as a best practice toolkit to safeguard against electoral interference. The European Commission and national Digital Service Co-ordinators are also putting in place monitoring procedures to assess compliance. But what impact have the rules had on digital discourse and consumer welfare? In this session, we explore lessons learned from the first year of the application of the DSA, and through insights from a leading expert in political communications and digital dominance, compare Europe's experience with other regions.*

**KEYNOTE** TBC

**KEYNOTE** **Dr Martin Moore**, Director of the Centre for the Study of Media, Communication and Power, Kings College London University

#### 11:45 - 12:15 STEPS TOWARDS A DIGITAL FAIRNESS ACT

*The Digital Fairness Act will seek to address manipulative and unethical commercial practices like the widespread use of dark patterns, opaque influencer marketing, addictive designs, personalised pricing based on tracking and profiling, video games currency, and other challenges for consumers. A legislative proposal for a Digital Fairness Act is expected by mid-2026. In this session, we hear from Nils Behrndt, the Deputy Director General for Digital Transformation, Justice and Consumers at the European Commission about the challenges consumers are facing and next steps for the legislative measure.*

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

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### 12:15 - 12:45 **BEYOND COMPETITION: REVIEWING THE MERGER GUIDELINES IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL TENSION**

*The European Commission plans to update the framework for assessing mergers to reflect changing market realities, technological advancements, and evolving policy objectives. In this session, we will hear from the Deputy Director General of DG Competition, what options are being considered for the review of the Merger Guidelines to take into account factors beyond traditional competition concerns, including innovation, resilience, investment, and sustainability, and what implications this may have for future merger policy in relation to digital platforms, services and telecoms.*

<b>KEYNOTE</b>	<b>Guillaume Lorient</b> , Deputy Director-General, DG Competition, European Commission
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<b>12:45 - 14:00</b>	Lunch
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### 14:00 - 15:30 **THE DIGITAL MARKETS ACT: LESSONS LEARNED AND NEXT STEPS - IS AI NEXT?**

*As the Commission issues its first enforcement Decisions under the Digital Markets Act, we discuss what progress has been made in opening key applications such as web browsing, search and app stores, to competition, and in supporting interoperability for designated NIICS such as WhatsApp. What lessons can be learned for the upcoming review of the DMA? Does the scope need to be extended to take into account new challenges raised by AI? Should interoperability be extended to cover online social networks?*

<b>KEYNOTE</b>	<b>Alberto Bacchiega</b> , European Commission, DG COMP, European Commission
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Panel discussion

**Francesco Versace**, Associate Director, Government Affairs at Spotify - Europe

**Wolfgang Oels**, COO, Ecosia

**TBC**

<b>15:30 - 16:00</b>	Break
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### 16:00 - 17:00 **EUROPE'S DIGITAL RULEBOOK – ASSET OR LIABILITY?**

*The volume of legislation in the digital field has significantly expanded in recent years, but to what extent has it been effective in achieving results? Will Europe's pro-activity in regulation help or hinder its ambitions towards digital leadership in an environment where other regions are rolling back the rules? Should it be simplified? If so, how, and for whom? In this keynote closing session, we hear the views of Prof. Alexandre de Streel and BEUC Director General Agustin Reyna about the future of Europe's Digital Acquis.*

<b>KEYNOTE</b>	<b>Alexandre de Streel</b> , Academic Director CERRE, Professor of European law at the University of Namur
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<b>KEYNOTE</b>	<b>Agustin Reyna</b> , Director General, BEUC
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<b>17:00 - 19:00</b>	Cocktails
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### 2<sup>nd</sup> day: 17 September 2025

#### Telecoms: rewriting the rulebook

08:45 - 09:15 Welcome

#### 09:15 - 10:15 REWRITING THE TELECOM RULEBOOK: THE DIGITAL NETWORKS ACT

*In this opening session, Kamila Kloc, Director for the Digital Decade and Connectivity at the European Commission will present the current status of planned new rules governing the telecom sector, and we will hear the perspective of BEREC regarding the views of National Regulatory Authorities. What are the main challenges holding Europe back from achieving the Digital Decade targets? What are the options for the reform of the EU Electronic Communications Framework? Is a significant rewrite needed, or can future connectivity challenges be tackled with just minor revisions? What will be the implications for consumers, infrastructure providers and telecom operators as well as regulatory authorities and national administrations going forwards?*

<b>KEYNOTE</b>	<b>Kamila Kloc</b> , Director, Digital Decade and Connectivity, DG CNECT European Commission
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<b>KEYNOTE</b>	<b>Robert Mourik</b> , BEREC Chair, Commissioner ComReg
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#### 10:15 - 10:45 RETHINKING DIGITAL POLICY FOR THE GEOPOLITICAL AGE

*As major trading blocks seek to insulate themselves from dependence on foreign powers, the focus in policy-making has shifted from competition to competitiveness. But what does it mean, and what will be the implications for policy, and impacts on consumers, businesses, telecom operators, digital platforms and all those who rely on them? In this session, William Kovacic, Global Competition Professor of Law and Policy at George Washington University, a former Chair of the US Federal Trade Commission, gives his perspective on how digital policy is being reshaped for the geopolitical age.*

<b>KEYNOTE</b>	<b>Prof. William Kovacic</b> , Global Competition Professor of Law and Policy at George Washington University, a former Chair of the US Federal Trade Commission
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10:45 - 11:15 Break

#### 11:15 - 13:00 OPTIONS FOR ACCESS REGULATION IN A FIBRE ENVIRONMENT

*SMP regulation was designed at a time when European markets were transitioning from historic incumbency towards liberalisation, but as we migrate from copper to modern networks, is it still fit for purpose in a full fibre environment? In this session we will consider the case for revision of the Relevant Market Recommendation as well as measures to facilitate copper switch-off and the long-term future for access regulation in a fibre environment.*

**Ingrid Malfait**, Director, European Affairs, Iliad Group

**Francesco Nonno**, Regulatory and European Affairs Director Open Fiber

**Barney Lane**, VP, Regulatory and Government Affairs, Colt Technology Services

**Marko Mismas**, Director AKOS, BEREC Chair 2026

TBC

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch



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### FUTURE MOBILE MARKETS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY

*Europe is behind other regions in the deployment of "full" 5G, but what are the underlying reasons, and what can be done to boost investment while fostering competition and innovation in mobile services and IoT? In this session, we explore whether existing mobile market structures can support 5G investment, whether net neutrality rules are holding back development of quality-based services and what mechanisms may be needed to support network cloudification and unleash cross-border IoT in the EU and beyond.*

**Ben Wreschner**, Regulatory Policy Director, Vodafone Group

**Jacques Bonifay**, CEO Transatel

**Bengt Molleryd**, Senior Analyst, Stockholm University Dept of computer and systems sciences

**Claudio Teixeira**, Senior legal officer, digital policy BEUC

TBC

KEYNOTE

TBC

16:00 - 17:00

### BEST PRACTICES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GIGABIT INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

*By November 2025, the majority of provisions of the GIA will need to be implemented at national level. Major new elements include the extension of the scope to cover access to public infrastructure such as rooftops and street furniture as well as the requirement to make new and renovated buildings fibre-ready. In this session we provide insights regarding best practice conditions for access to physical infrastructure and implementation of the Single Information Point as well as standards for in-building infrastructure.*

**Speaker TBC**, WIK-Consult GmbH

TBC

17:00

Conference close