

Conference

The EECC and its impact on investment in very high capacity networks (VHCN)

13 December 2019

Sala Europa - Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

Scientific organiser: **Pier Luigi Parcu** | European University Institute

Introduction

The comprehensive overhaul of the European telecoms regulatory framework culminated in December 2018 with the adoption of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC). EU Member States have now two years to transpose the Directive establishing the EECC into national law. One of the key objectives of the EECC is to stimulate investment in very high-capacity networks (VHCN), in particular 5G and new fibre networks, and to ensure fair competition between telecommunications operators and over-the-top players (OTTs) by levelling the playing field.

The new Code and national legislation implementing it will play critical role in the EU Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy, and in particular in the achievement of the Commission's Gigabit objectives. Private investment is expected to reach 90 per cent of the investment needed to ensure connectivity of the EU necessary for its digitalisation. If national telecommunications regulatory authorities (NRAs) want to see more competition in the market, they will have to enhance the conditions for investment. To support NRAs in the pursuit of this objective, in October 2018 BEREC launched a procurement of a study on the Determinants of Investment in VHCN. The study aims to develop a system dynamics model that would provide a better understanding of the factors that impact private investment in telecommunications networks.

While the new Code builds upon the previous framework by keeping market analysis and the determination of the SMP as central features of the telecoms regulation, it opens up a possibility for telecom operators to reach agreements with the NRAs that could relax obligations they would otherwise face under the EU law. Given that market situation differs substantially among the EU Member States one of the questions that emerges is whether under the new Code mobile and fibre operators will enjoy the same level of certainty when planning their investments.

Draft Programme

- 09.00 - 09.15 Welcome
Pier Luigi Parcu | European University Institute
- Session 1: Co-investment and commercial agreements or wholesale-only: Which model will spur more incentives to invest?**
- 09.15 - 10.45 Moderator
Gera van Duijvenvoorde | Leiden University
- Panellists:
Carlo Cambini | Polytecnic University of Turin
Wilhelm Eschweiler | BNetzA
Francesco Nonno | Openfiber
Francesco Castelli | TIM
- 10.45 - 11.15 *Coffee break*
- Session 2: Stimulating investment in 5G: balancing investment certainty and flexibility**
- 11.15 - 13.00 Moderator
Steffen Hoernig | Nova School of Business & Economics
- Panellists:
Erik Bohlin | Chalmers University
Antonio Nicita | AGCOM
Serafino Abate | GSMA
Erzsébet Fitori | FTTH Council Europe
Małgorzata Krajewska | Orange
- 13.00 - 14.00 *Lunch*
- 14.00 - 14.30 **Keynote speech**
- Economic contribution of broadband (Very High Capacity Network) and ICT regulation**
Eun-Ju Kim | ITU
- Session 3: The European Electronic Communications Code and its impact on VHCN**
- 14.30 - 16.00 Moderator
Marc Bourreau | Institut Polytechnic of Paris
- Panellists:
Alexandre de Streel | University of Namur
Marcin Cichy | UKE
Roland Doll | Deutsche Telekom
Bernd Langeheine | Cleary Gottlieb
- 16.00 - 16.15 Final remarks
Pier Luigi Parcu | European University Institute