

# Digitalizing infrastructure, digital platforms and public services

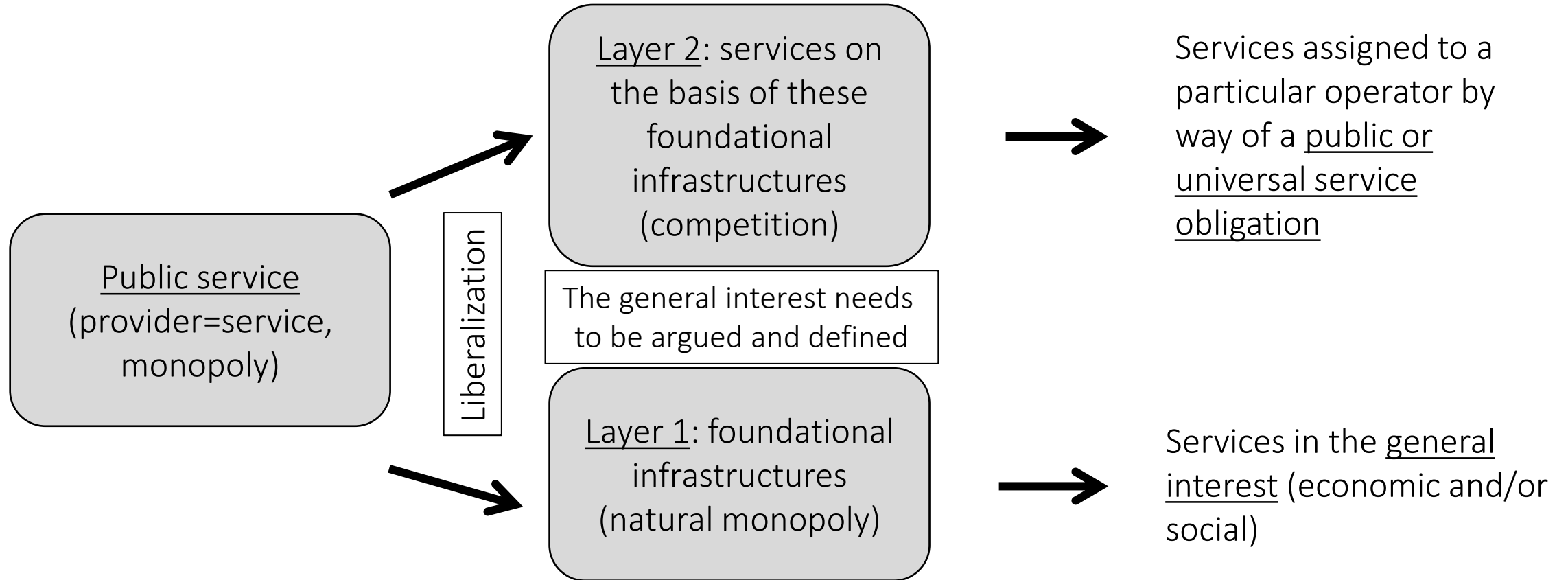
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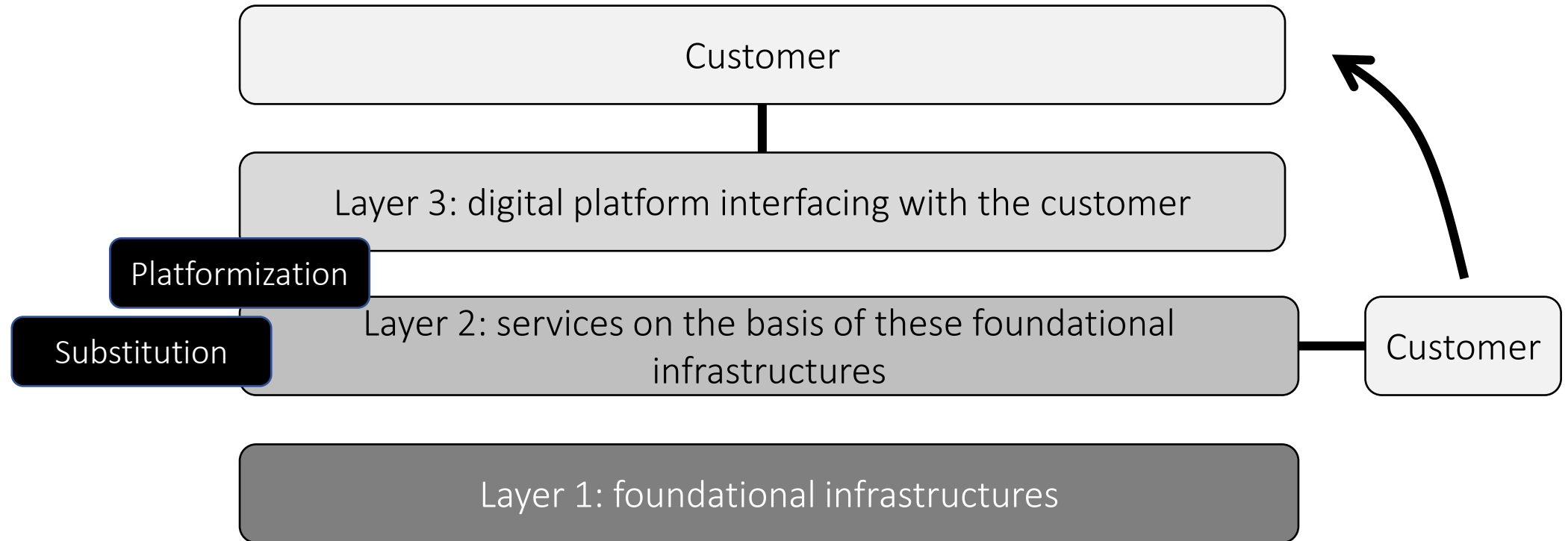
# Argument and structure

- The public services and public policy dimension of digitalization is not yet sufficiently understood, and even less so conceptualized
- As a first step, we need a good understanding of what public service is; we do this by referring to the liberalized infrastructures
- In a second step, we will show of digitalization affects infrastructures and try to understand the nature of digital platforms
- In a third step, we will in particular look at the effects of digitalization on the public services of infrastructures
- Finally, we will discuss the public services dimension of digital platforms and ensuing regulatory interventions

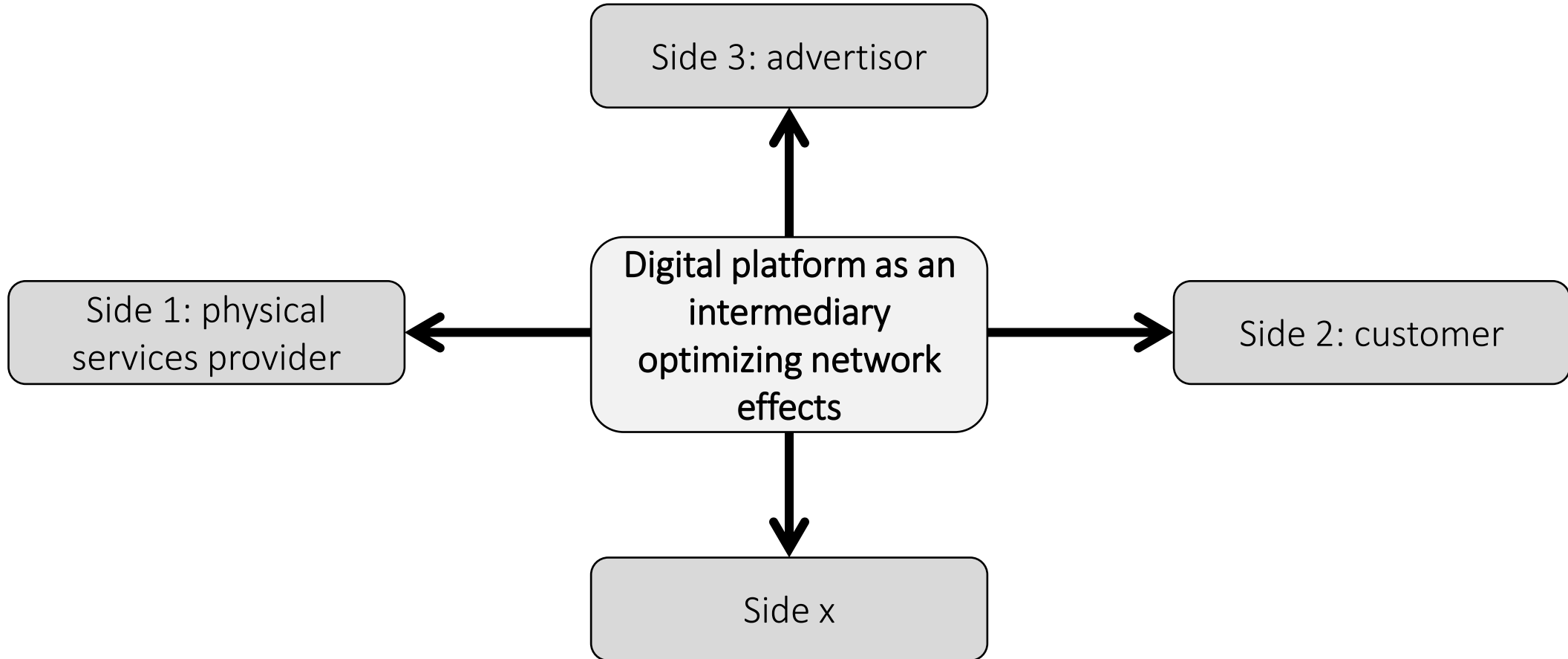
# What are public services?



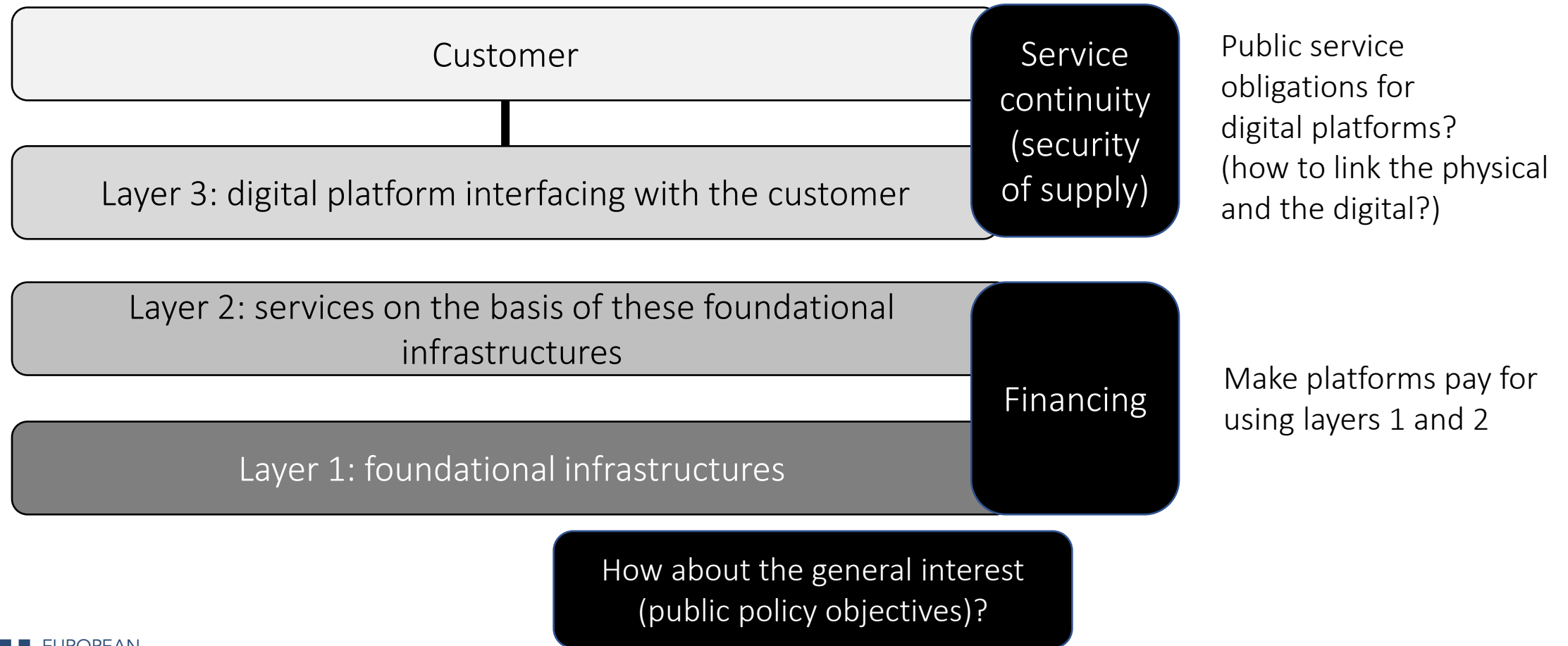
# Impacts of digitalization



# The nature of digital platforms



# Impacts of digitalization on existing public services



# Governing platforms in the general interest

- **Implementing public policy objectives at the local level:**
  - “smart city” platforms in the public interest as “digital PPPs”
  - city authorities as intermediaires between “data” providers and platforms (contractual arrangements)
  - platforms as an integral part of the urban public service “ecosystem”
- **Layer 3 (digital platform) as a “new network industry”:**
  - unbundling of layer 3
  - PSOs when needed, decentralized (see point above)
  - digital infrastructures (data collection, transmission, storage) governed in the general interest (ownership or regulation, probably at EU level)
- **EU governance (regulation) for addressing “platform power”:**
  - digital sovereignty regulations for public interest infrastructures
  - disciplining global private platforms (DMA, GDPR)

# Conclusion

Challenge	Governance level	Conceptualization	Policy instrument
Ensuring public services objectives	Local, urban, metropolitan	Digital-physical ecosystem	Public ownership, public-private partnership, obligations through contracts
Continuity of service Security of supply	National (EU)	Unbundled digital layer, focus on the digital infrastructure in the general interest	Regulation  Public ownership (digital sovereignty)
Financing and more generally platform power	EU	Network effects leading to monopolization	Regulating platforms for abuse of market power