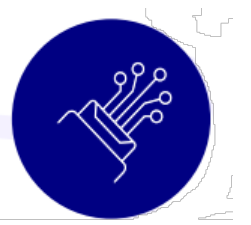




DIGITAL NETWORKS ACT

CSO Workshop
17 March 2026



Transition to Fibre

- **Objective:** Swift roll-out and take up of fibre (FTTH)
 - Cohesion of European society
 - Competitiveness of EU economy
 - Benefits: accumulated GDP impact +EUR 327 billion
2030: FTTH coverage +5 percentage point (78% to 83%); take-up +7 pp (48% to 55%); speed: +7%
- **Problem:** Slow deployment and take-up of fibre, Different situation across the Union; persistence of urban-rural divide.
- **Problem drivers:** Persistence of copper networks. Different regulatory approaches.
- **Options:** various degrees of intensity combining copper switch off and access
 - Conditional copper switch-off and updated access regulation

Transition to Fibre Networks

- **Key principles of the regulatory framework on transition to fibre**
 - **Predictability**
 - Clear direction and timeline;
 - Orderly Copper switch-off
 - **Coordination between EU and national level**
 - Involvement of European Commission, Member States, Regulators and Operators
 - Fibre Transition Plans;
 - Sustainability conditions
 - Flexibility to adapt
 - **Focus on end-users**
 - Information;
 - exceptions/flexibility

Transition to FN – CSO obligation

- **Scope of CSO obligation**
- **“Mandating copper switch-off” is a staged process**
- **Conditional CSO**
 - Applies where *sustainability conditions* are met
 - NRAs assess conditions and publish list of CSO areas meeting the conditions
 - Must be mandated **as of 2030 and by 31 December 2035**
 - Be completed within 3 years
- **Mandatory CSO with exceptions**
 - Sustainability conditions do not apply anymore
 - Covers remaining CSO areas
 - Must be mandated **by 31 December 2035**
 - **Completed within three years**
 - *Exception*

Transition to FN – CSO areas

- CSO areas basic units of the CSO process
- NRAs delimit the CSO areas, taking into account Commission guidance
- NRAs may update the list of CSO areas where appropriate

Transition to FN – Sustainability conditions

- **Coverage** condition

- At least 95% of the premises within the CSO area are passed by a fibre network
- “Premises passed” are premises that can be connected with reasonable effort

- **Affordability** condition

- “Affordable retail connectivity services of comparable quality are available to end-users relying on copper-based services.”
- Affordability is defined by NRAs “in accordance with national circumstances, objective and transparent parameters”
- “Comparable quality” means similar main characteristics (e.g. download and upload speeds, latency, and reliability)

Transition to FN – Exception

- Exception to CSO for (residual) areas where:
 - Fibre deployment is economically not viable, **and**
 - No adequate alternative connectivity solution exists

Transition to FN – National Transition to Fibre Plan

- Strategic planning tool/document
- Initial plan by 31 October 2029 and updated plan by 30 June 2034
- Information about
 - (a) coverage of copper and fibre networks;
 - (b) measures to foster fibre deployment and the transition to FTTH networks;
 - (c) status of CSO areas, migration milestones and enabling measures
- Assessment by the Commission

Transition to FN – Main tasks

- National Regulatory Authorities
 - Define and publish CSO areas (based on Commission guidance)
 - Publish and update list of CSO areas meeting the sustainability conditions
 - Assess and approve CSO plans
 - Supervise implementation of CSO plans
- Member States
 - Prepare and update Transition to Fibre Plan (assessed by the EC)
 - Adopt binding act mandating CSO
 - Adopt safeguards
- Operators
 - Prepare and submit CSO plan(s)
 - Implement approved CSO plan(s)

Updates to access regulation

- **Complementarity of symmetric and asymmetric measures kept**
- **Symmetric measures:**
 - Access to in-building wiring maintained
 - Access beyond the first concentration point under Article 69(2) as a complementary tool.
 - NRAs may require operators to connect households passed by fibre networks upon user's request.
 - Specific provisions concerning Owners/administrators of multi-dwelling units.
- **Asymmetric measures:**
 - Prioritisation of access to civil infrastructure
 - Other new aspects

