

Digital Europe European and national policies to drive investments, market developments and competition

The Role of Regulation

Dr. Wilhelm Eschweiler, BNetzA (BEREC Chair) AGCOM IIC Workshop, Rome, 12 January 2016

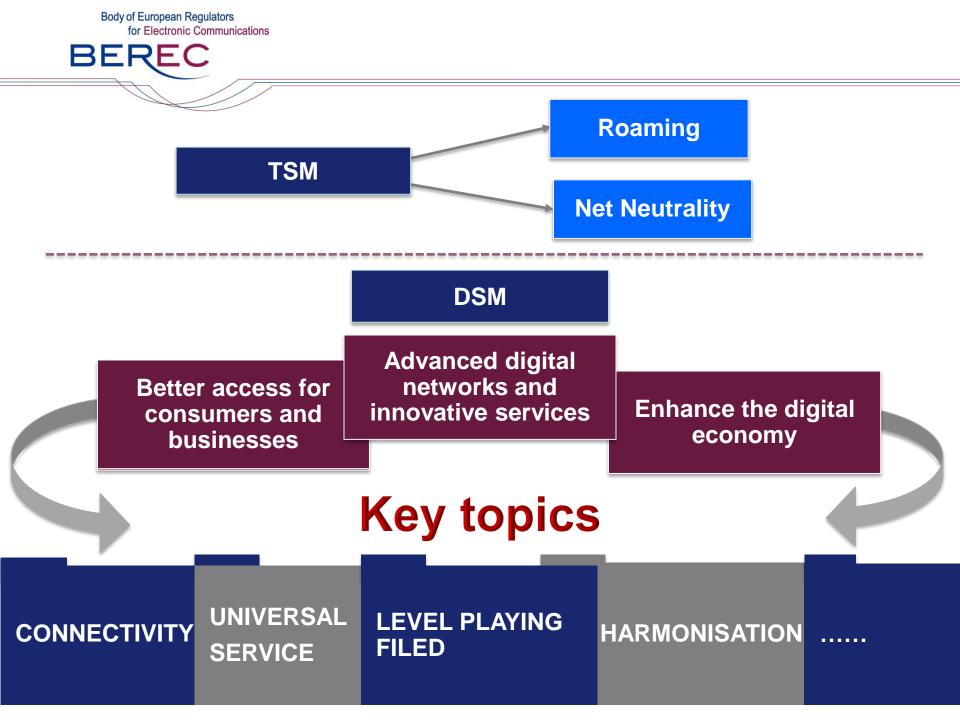


Starting point

- Rapidly changing communications world
- Keywords describing the new digital ecosystem:
 - Internet Economy
 - ✓ Highspeed broadband networks
 - ✓ Internet of things
 - ✓ OTT services
 - ✓ Cloud services
 - 🗸 Big data
 - ✓ Industry 4.0

BE

- Regulation is constantly following closely new market trends and consumer needs
- European Framework dedicates key role of regulation and its implementation to independent national regulators
- Current Framework has proven to be successful
- Very balanced set of regulatory objectives and principles
- Revision of the Framework at the heart of the work for BEREC in 2016 with a view to achieving a digital Europe





- Improve fast/superfast broadband infrastructure deployment speed
- Digital divide, rural areas
- Foster take-up of high-speed broadband

By which means/options?

- Regulation/Deregulation
- Role of Universal Service
- State Aid

- ✓Competition drives investment
- ✓No "one-size fits all" solution.
- NRAs need flexibility to respond to the diverse and evolving requirements of the respective market.



Distortion of a level playing field among different players?

- Focus on situations of competing services.
- New business models and changes in the internet value chain.

Options? Perspectives?

- NRAs willing to monitor market developments (impact of new players/business models) on the telecom markets
- ✓ Current ECS definition would benefit from some clarification
- Legislator should consider the policy objectives of each obligation and the proportionality of imposing that obligation on a specific service or service type

Do we need further harmonisation? If so where?

- Heterogenous infrastructures
- Maturity of markets differ
- Harmonisation desirable but increasing complexity of market conditions and need to respect proportionality

Options? Perspectives?

- The appropriate mix of network technologies and models of competition depend on the particularities of each market
- More flexible + differentiated regulatory toolbox in particular with a view to access regulation
- ✓ Framework needs to be able to address oligopolistic scenarios
- ✓ Room for improvement (e.g. longer market review periods)



- Promote Competition and Investment
- Promote the Internal Market
- Empower and protect End-Users

"Light touch Regulation"



- Pursue the most efficient, proportionate and least intrusive regulatory approaches according to market conditions
- Details defined bottom-up
- ✓ Regulate, co-regulate and deregulate as and when needed.



Conclusion

- Effective competition drives efficient investment
- Connectivity is the sum of competition + state aid + universal service + take up
- Proportional level playing field
- Harmonisation but one size does not fit all
- Update regulatory toolbox

 Future framework would preserve what is at the root of its success also in times of the digital evolution

- Regulatory flexibility to cope with fast-changing digital ecosystem for the benefit of EU citizens and economy
- Regulation would continue to play an important role in achieving our common goal: the creation of a digital single market in Europe!



All BEREC documents are published on the BEREC website:

http://berec.europa.eu

Mille grazie!

