

BEREC revised broadband Common Positions

BEREC adopted revised Common Positions (CPs) on wholesale local access (WLA), wholesale broadband access (WBA) and wholesale leased lines (WLL) at the BEREC Plenary on 7 December 2012. The CPs are intended to assist NRAs in designing the most effective remedies to address the competition problems identified in their respective national markets, in pursuit of the objectives of the regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services.

Over the last 12 months, BEREC has also been working closely with the European Commission. Indeed, BEREC shares the Commission's desire to provide the market with clear, coherent and predictable regulatory signals, and recognises this is one of the necessary conditions for enabling investment in high-speed broadband networks in Europe. BEREC is also mindful of the need to ensure that the competitive gains made over the last ten years are not lost in the process of securing investment. The BEREC CPs on WLA and WBA complement the Commission's existing NGA Recommendation, and will inform BEREC's own opinion to the Commission's draft Recommendation in the areas of non-discrimination and costing methodologies, a copy of which was shared with BEREC on 30 November.

We note that, as the CPs are based on the collective past experiences of BEREC members, they are different in nature to the Commission's draft Recommendation, which is forward-looking. Furthermore, the CPs are different in scope to the draft Recommendation. They cover best practices in the areas of access, transparency, migration, pricing as well as non-discrimination, and do not include the detailed costing issues covered in the draft Recommendation. Following a preliminary examination of the draft Recommendation, BEREC will continue to engage in discussions with the Commission on this as it forms its Opinion (which it intends to adopt at its first Plenary of 2013).

Until then and thereafter, BEREC is mindful of the importance of a coherent regulatory approach to these issues of key importance to our sector, and looks forward to a continued and constructive engagement with the Commission.