

Body of European Regulators
for Electronic Communications

BEREC

**9th BEREC
Stakeholder
Forum** **ONLINE**

1 April 2021

BEREC's workflow on sustainability

Outline

- *Starting point of BEREC's work on sustainability*
- *Main calendar elements*
- *Work in progres*
- *A few elements about our main ongoing works*
- *And what next?*



- ❑ ICT sector currently accounts for 4% of total global CO2 emissions, communications networks represent 24% of the total.
- ❑ ICT emissions could increase to 14% by 2040.

Belkhir, L. & Elmeligi, A. (2018)

Starting point

- The Green deal: "Europe needs a digital sector that puts sustainability at its heart. The Commission will also consider measures to improve the energy efficiency and circular economy performance of the sector itself, from broadband networks to data centers and ICT devices";
- Commission's digital strategy: "Data centres and telecommunications will need to become more energy efficient, reuse waste energy, and use more renewable energy sources. They can and should become climate neutral by 2030."
- BEREC Strategy 2021 – 2025: BEREC has to develop "an understanding of how to reduce the carbon footprint, a topic which is gaining importance in the digital sector";

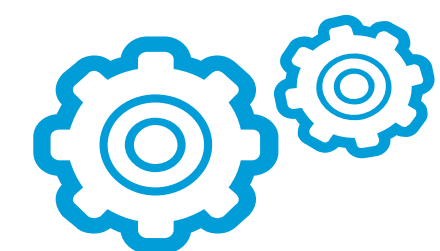


April 2020 : Constitution of an **Expert Networking Group on sustainability (ENG)** expected to work on two dimensions :

- The “internal dimension”: BEREC/BEREC Office’s own activities to reduce its environmental footprint;
- The “external dimension” (i.e. external to BEREC/BEREC Office’s own activities): environmental impact and sustainability of the electronic communication sector

December 2020 : **Creation of an Ad-Hoc Working group** specifically dedicated to the external dimension for 2021-2023

A priority for BEREC is to build expertise regarding environmental impact of the sector in order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives set by the Commission for 2030.



Work in progress

Developing BEREC's basic knowledge about the different aspects of sustainability in the sector

- October 2020: 2 days of internal workshops "Sustainability within the digital sector; what is the role of BEREC?"
- December 2020: Heads workshop on sustainability "input from Arcep, Traficom and Comreg and open discussions"
- December 2020: Launch of an external study on environmental impact of electronic communications

Finding out what is being done elsewhere and identify the possibilities for BEREC's intervention

- January: Launch of bilateral meetings with relevant stakeholders



A few elements about...

The internal workshop : *Sustainability within the digital sector; what is the role of BEREC?*

- Day 1: The science behind assessing the environmental impact of the digital sector and the political landscape
- Day 2: Understanding the role of Stakeholders and how BEREC can involve them in the process

Key learning so far:

- **Efficiency gains are failing to keep track with the rapid growth of the sector**
- **A significant impact is coming from consumption of raw materials**
- **There are no standardised data collection and measurement methodologies**



External study on environmental impact of electronic communications

The study shall **provide BEREC and NRAs with key information** that may become a **decision support tool** in the field of sustainability. The study should determine the « impact » on the environment of the digital sector, in general, and of the electronic communication sector, in particular.

The study will

- **compile factual knowledge**
- **assess the adverse environmental effects of the sector on the environment**
- **Highlight good practices or initiatives**

A few elements about...



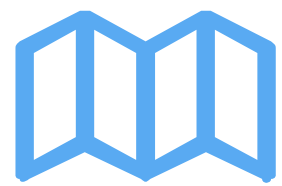
Bilateral meetings with stakeholders

Be fully aware of **ongoing studies and research** on the environmental impact of the sector
Establish and maintain links with stakeholders working on these issues to exchange on ongoing work but also to **be identified as consulting capacity** by the stakeholders

Meeting organised with:

- **BEREC WG and regulators**
- **European Union bodies and European Agencies**
- **International organisations**
- **NGOs and civil society**
- **Trade associations**

A few elements about...



Next steps

The group will compile the most interesting output of its different work in a **final report** which will also include the conclusions of the external study

The findings of this work shall allow BEREC **to decide about further work** on sustainability for 2022

Feel free to contact us !



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Thank you very much for your attention