



IIC/BEREC Forum

*« Green growth, sustainability & ICT's
role in the climate change agenda »*

May 2021, 27th

Digital technologies environmental footprint & the role of regulators

To meet the environmental targets set at the European level and the Paris Agreement, it is necessary that the digital sector manages its environmental footprint.

- A progressive awareness about digital technologies environmental issues in France :
 - ❑ work of civil society experts ;
 - ❑ first legislations with binding obligations ;
 - ❑ integration of an environmental component in Arcep data collection in 2020;
- Growing demand for stronger implication of public authorities in digital technologies governance after **Covid-19** and **3,5GHZ auctions**.



Together with defending the opening up to competition, investments for better connectivity and net neutrality principle, our Authority wishes to make environmental regulatory policy a new chapter in its regulation.

Arcep's initiative « *Achieving digital sustainability* » (2020)

Platform and events for 6 months

- ❑ 130 participants (public authorities, operators, digital companies, associations, academics, etc).
- ❑ 6 technical workshops and 3 political/societal discussions.

Co-edition of a report in December

- ❑ 42 contributions from external stakeholders (ex : Ademe, The Shift Project, Bouygues Telecom , SNCF, Vodafone, Facebook, FFTelecom, Négaoctet, ...).

11 RECOMMANDATIONS FORMULATED BY OUR AUTHORITY

1. Entrust a public entity with the power to collect useful information from the entire digital ecosystem ;
2. Participate in the creation of a common frame of reference for measurement: an environmental index ;
3. Facilitate the transition from copper to fibre ;
4. Encourage network optimisation by promoting civil engineering infrastructure and fibre infrastructure last drop (access network) sharing schemes ;
5. Encourage initiatives designed to implement automatic sleep mechanisms in ISP customers' routers and STBs ;
6. Achieve more detailed analysis of the positive and negative impact of switching off 2G and 3G network
7. Examine network performance indicators in 2021;
8. Work with interested stakeholders to explore solutions for optimising mobile networks' medium and long-term environmental impact ;
9. Develop, if appropriate, more detailed monitoring of operators' handset subsidy practices and their effects ;
10. Work with interested stakeholders to draft Codes of conduct/charters;
11. Increase users' accountability and their ability to take action.

A new governmental strategy « *Digital and Environment* » (2021)



15 measures, 3 priorities:

1. Developing knowledge of the digital environmental footprint;
2. Reducing this footprint for a more sustainable digital sector;
3. Promoting digital technologies use at the service the ecological transition.

Measures directly related to Arcep

- ❑ Establishment of an environmental barometer for the digital ecosystem, new data collection power for Arcep in that sense;
- ❑ Arcep-ADEME mission on the assessment of the environmental impact of digital technologies in France (including estimations for 2030-2050);
- ❑ ARCEP Analysis of mobile phones distribution models and their environmental impact (mainly on mobile phone life cycle) ;
- ❑ Study of ways to take environmental issues into account in the allocation of the next 26Ghz frequency bands.

Measures indirectly related to ECS footprint

- ❑ Pursuit and finalization of consultation with telecom operators, distributors and platforms in order to define strong environmental commitments;
- ❑ Launch of a prospective study on the development of connected objects and environmental matters;
- ❑ Formalization of codes of conduct with digital players.

Thank you for
your attention



Emmanuel GABLA, Member of Arcep's College

Emmanuel.gabla@arcep.fr