



4iG GROUP'S RESPONSE TO DRAFT BEREC PROGRESS REPORT ON MANAGING COPPER NETWORK SWITCH-OFF

4iG Group, a Hungarian majority-owned group based in Budapest is the leading regional telecommunications group in Hungary and the Western Balkans. The holding company 4iG Plc, listed on Budapest Stock Exchange, operates mobile networks in three, and fixed networks in two national markets in Europe.

4iG appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on BEREC's draft report on managing the copper network switch-off.

4iG's primary vision is to become a regional mobile network operator capable of achieving the customer base and market coverage that will enable it to offer high quality 5G mobile services to its residential and business customers on both public and private networks.

General comments

Drawing on the experience of the countries surveyed, the report provides operators with current information on the progress of the copper network switch-off in Europe. It also allows us to compare our own processes with the practices and regulations of other countries.

Final deadline for switch-off

According to BEREC more than half of fixed SMP operators providing information plan to at least partially switch off their copper network while only 8 Member States have declared 2030 as deadline for implementation in their plans. 4iG Group agrees with the Report when it concludes that the switch-off process in Europe is not expected to be fully completed before 2030, and that single deadline for the EU proposed by the White Paper does not seem realistic.

In our view the switch-off process of the national copper networks should primarily be determined by national market competition, demand and socio-economic situation, and in this context, we propose that the decision on the timing of decommissioning shall remain national competence.

Based on our Group's experience so far, the Hungarian regulation on the switch-off process is properly working. The implementation of local disconnection is conditional on the provision of 100% NGA coverage in the area 6 months in advance in the absence of wholesale demand, and up to 24 months in advance if there is a wholesale demand.



Consumer protection

The Report has noted that the notice period used to reduce forced migration ranges from 6 to 24 months in the Member States, but in certain cases it can be much longer. Meanwhile, forced migration rates have varied widely, in some reported cases exceeding 5%.

We are committed to protecting the interests of our consumers and actively working to minimise forced migration. We believe that the most effective approach is to ensure a continuous and consistent disconnection process in line with the speed of VHCN deployment of each national operators, rather than imposing a specific cut-off deadline. This approach, coupled with the use of continuous communication, is key to ensuring consumer satisfaction and effectively minimizing involuntary migration issues.