

Summary report on the outcome of the internal workshop on aspects of 2G and 3G mobile technology phaseouts

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1 Introduction

In 2023 BEREC produced, [consulted](#) and published the [Report on practices and challenges of the phasing out of 2G and 3G](#). The report showed that there were no known cases yet in Europe of complete phaseout of both 2G and 3G, but that in many countries one or more MNOs plan to phaseout older generations of mobile technology and focus only on 4G and beyond. A number of challenges were described that need attention of the market to be mitigated in time, and potentially also need attention of regulators. Also the report showed that most of the challenges described do not have a single stakeholder that can be considered 'problem owner'. An overview of these challenges can be found in the figure below, and the report showed that most of the challenges described do not have a single stakeholder that can be considered the 'problem owner'.

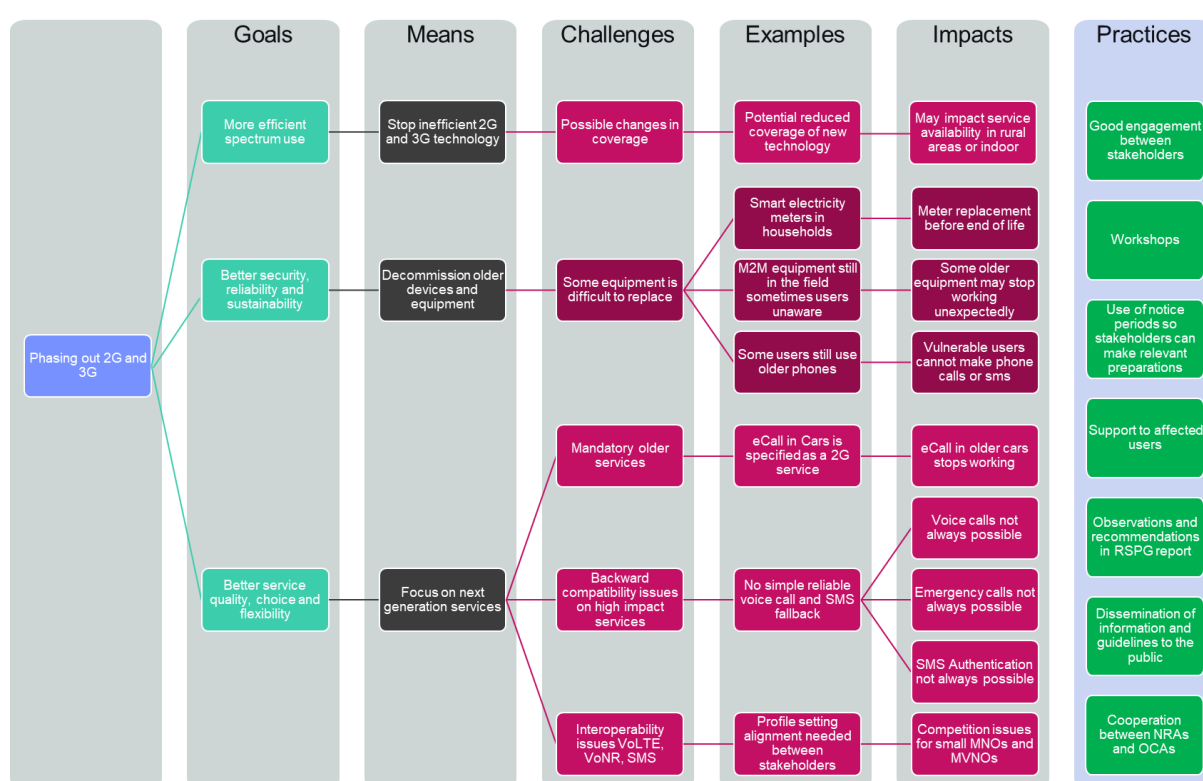


Figure 1: Overview of potential challenges with 2G and 3G phaseout, with examples, impacts and identified practices (from BoR (23) 204)

The report also set out that phasing out older technology generations will have positive effects on different aspects, such as an increase in spectrum and energy efficiency and improved communication security. BEREC also set out that phasing out will also result in higher data speeds that will enable new use cases.

As part of the Work Programme for 2025, BEREC set out to follow-up on the above work by holding an internal workshop (the “workshop”) to explore potential remaining challenges from the perspective of national regulatory authorities (“NRAs”). To develop the content for the workshop, NRAs were invited to provide insights into the phaseout plannings in different countries, of actions taken in different countries, lessons learned and of potential challenges that NRAs observe.

2 Observations on phaseout planning

With regard to the planning of phaseout of 2G and 3G roughly 3 categories of European countries can be distinguished:

- Approximately half of the European countries do not envisage 2G and 3G phaseout before 2030.
- The other half of the European countries see at least one Mobile Network Operator phasing out both 2G and 3G before or during 2030.
- A subset of the latter consists of around 10 countries with full phaseout of both 2G and 3G for all Mobile Network Operators in that country, with planned phaseout dates varying from end of 2025 to 2029.

An additional observation is that planned phaseouts have in several cases been subject to delays. In all cases, timing of phaseout is determined by operators.

3 Workshop discussions

On 16 July 2025, BEREC held an internal workshop at expert level to discuss aspects of the phaseout of 2G and 3G mobile technologies in European countries. The workshop was conducted internally to enable experts to exchange views and experiences in a more holistic setting as compared to what is typically facilitated in an external workshop format that is usually open to registration by other interested parties, who often join for their own information purposes. As a result, this summary report provides only a high-level overview of main discussion points so that BEREC's stakeholders may be broadly informed about the contents of the internal workshop. Also to note, the decision to phaseout 2G and 3G mobile technologies is a matter for operators, but regulators may have a remit to regulate matters that impact on end users.

Overview of general topics discussed at the workshop

The below text sets out an indicative list of some of the general topics that were discussed at the workshop (the precise content of the discussion is internal to BEREC):

- Improving BEREC's and NRAs understanding of the timing of phaseout in countries, as certain challenges may already occur when one MNO has phased out both 2G and 3G, while other challenges may only occur when every MNO in a country does not offer 2G and 3G mobile technologies. Also not all operators have (publicly) communicated their proposed timing of phaseout (yet).
- Starting and supporting early communication to end users to allow enough time for transitions, and making founded decisions on the usability of mobile phones and other equipment when changing or renewing contracts or equipment.
- Identifying different retail and business user categories and raising user awareness



- Engaging with, and ensuring that MNOs provide continuity of their services and coverage for end users
- How can users identify whether their smartphone can be used after phaseout of both 2G and 3G and whether updates have to be installed or settings have to be changed by the users, by MNOs and/or by device manufacturers. Examples are particular techniques such as carrier testing of devices, attestations from device manufacturers and data from the industry GSMA IMEI database¹ (for example, the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association set up a check my device website²)
- Identifying roles and responsibilities observing the use of frequency assignments is technology-neutral
- Identifying connected IoT devices including those operated by resellers, which may stop working, and enabling continuity of service for different classes of narrow band connected IoT devices in a 4G / 5G only environment, and
- Experiences and plans of NRAs and other organisations to raise awareness among end user equipment vendors, as well as consumer and business customers, that equipment not capable of supporting 4G should not be sold or purchased within a reasonable timeframe, once 2G/3G phaseout dates are known.

¹ [IMEI DATABASE - Industry Services](#)

² See <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/media/news/find-out-if-your-device-impacted-3g-network-switch-offs>

4 Next steps

BEREC also informs stakeholders and interested parties that even after the workshop was completed, BEREC continued to hold supplemental discussions. In this regard, BEREC may yet reach out to external parties for additional information of interest to BEREC. Should such additional discussions take place and involve any external stakeholders, BEREC may revise this report to reference and acknowledge any additional relevant discussion points.

BEREC is proposing to have a similar approach to this work item during 2026, so as to enable it to continue exploring aspects of phaseout of mobile technologies in Europe based on real examples of phaseout but bearing in mind the remit of BEREC. For example, the intention is to also engage with external parties during 2026, but on an internal basis, given the potential resource constraints arising from various new legislative proposals and the priority work expected to commence from December 2026 concerning the Digital Networks Act.



Annex 1 Internal Workshop Agenda, 16 July 10:00-16:30 CEST

10.00 CEST Welcome and scene setting, WNE co-chairs (98 participants in total)

- Joe Lynch, ComReg (Ireland)
- Sietse van der Gaast, ACM (the Netherlands)

10.15 CEST Keynote: Lessons learned and practical issues encountered

- Cathy Rainsford, ACMA (Australia, 2 participants)

Q&A with experts, and discussions

11.00 CEST

First round of NRA presentations

- ~~Thoreifur~~ Jonasson, ECOI (Iceland)
- Mick Fox, ComReg (Ireland)
- Vincent van der Schoot, ACM (the Netherlands)

Q&A with experts, and expert discussions

12.15 CEST

Industry speaker 1: ~~Verisure~~ (France, 3 participants)

Q&A with experts, and expert discussions

13:00 – 14.00 CEST Lunch & networking

14.00 CEST

Industry speaker 2: Tech Sverige (Sweden, 1 participant)

Q&A with speakers, and expert discussions

14.45 CEST

Second round of NRA presentations:

- Erik Gustafsson, PTS (Sweden)
- ~~Urs~~ Haenni, BAKOM (Switzerland)
- Ronan ~~LeFauchoux~~, ~~Arcep~~ (France)

Q&A with experts, and expert discussions

~16.15 CEST Wrap-up and closing by WNE Co-chairs
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