

IS EUROPE FIT FOR THE DIGITAL AGE?

WIK Conference, 13 - 14 September 2023
Hotel The Dominican, Rue Léopold/Leopoldstraat 9, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Programme

1st day: 13 September 2023

EXPLORING THE NEW EU ACQUIS FOR DATA AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS

09:00 – 09:30 *Welcome & Registration*

09:30 – 10:30

KEYNOTE - A NEW EU ACQUIS FOR DIGITAL PLATFORMS

In this session Rita Wezenbeek, Director at DG Connect for Platforms Policy and Enforcement, will discuss recent developments in the platform economy and explain how the EU plans to foster competition and innovation while protecting consumers through the EU's newly formed digital acquis. She will highlight the key aims and developments connected with the Digital Markets Act, Digital Services Act, and forthcoming Data Act, and AI Act, and discuss how these measures will interact with existing competition and consumer law. Following Ms Wezenbeek's presentation, there will be an opportunity for questions from the audience.

Chair

Dr Cara Schwarz-Schilling, General Manager, WIK

KEYNOTE

Rita Wezenbeek, Director for Platforms, DG CNECT, European Commission

10:30 – 11:00

KEYNOTE - THE NEW EU DIGITAL PLATFORMS RULES: EUROPEAN HUBRIS OR INTERNET RENAISSANCE?

Chair

Dr Cara Schwarz-Schilling, General Manager, WIK

KEYNOTE

Prof. Alexandre de Stree, Professor European Law, University of Namur, Academic Director at CERRE, Chair of the EC expert group on the online platform economy

11:00 – 11:30 *Break*

11:30 – 13:00

IMPLEMENTING THE DIGITAL MARKETS ACT

The designation of gatekeepers under the DMA is due to be completed by September 2023 and the obligations will apply from March 2024. A high-level group involving representatives from a variety of regulatory bodies has been established to provide advice on implementation. In this session, the European Commission will provide an overview of the designation process and next steps in the implementation of the DMA. Through contributions from major platforms, content and app providers, we will explore the key levers to support contestability and debate how requirements relating to access and interoperability and prohibitions on self-preferencing might be interpreted under the DMA.

Chair

Ilsa Godlovitch, Director Brussels, WIK-Consult

Lucia Bonova, Head of Unit Digital Platforms, DG COMP European Commission

Annemarie Sipkes, Director ACM & High-Level Group for the DMA

Oliver Bethell, Head of Competition, EMEA Competition, Google

Olivia Regnier, Senior Director, European Policy, Spotify

Lukas Wiewiorra, Head of Department, WIK

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

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14:00 – 14:30

ENFORCING THE DIGITAL SERVICES ACT: A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES

In this keynote address, Klaus Muller, President of the BNetzA and previously Executive Director of the Federation of German Consumer Organisations discusses how the Digital Services Act intends to establish a safe, predictable and trustworthy online environment, how online platforms should tackle illegal content, online disinformation or other societal risks, and describes how the German designated DSC plans to enforce the rules of the DSA and to cooperate with the EU Commission, other DSCs and national authorities.

Chair

Dr Cara Schwarz-Schilling, General Manager, WIK

KEYNOTE

Klaus Müller, President of the Bundesnetzagentur

14:30 – 15:45

PROTECTING CONSUMERS IN THE AGE OF BIG DATA AND AI

In this session, we consider how data-driven algorithms and AI are affecting the nature of online services and the consumer experience. We will consider the risks of manipulation as well as how AI can be used to provide solutions to challenges such as support for search and customer service, content moderation and child protection. We will look at the implications of the Digital Services Act and planned AI act and explore whether the new digital rules and existing regulation on privacy and consumer protection are fit for the digital age.

Chair

Philippe Defraigne, Founding Director, Cullen International

Tjade Stroband, Director for European Government Affairs, Microsoft

Dr Joanna Strycharz, Assistant Professor, University of Amsterdam

Lukas Wiewiorra, Head of Department, WIK

Marie-Paule Bénassi, Head of unit Enforcement of consumer law and redress,
DG Justice and consumers European Commission

15:45 – 16:15 Break

16:15 – 17:30

DATA ACCESS AND INTEROPERABILITY: IMPLICATIONS OF THE DATA ACT

The Data Act is set to introduce wide-ranging provisions regarding access to data from connected devices and the right for Governments to request data from private companies. The data act also introduces obligations relating to interoperability and switching for cloud service providers. In this session, we explore the provisions of the forthcoming Data Act and consider the implications for the industry, as well as aspects of the implementation in practice by the relevant authorities.

Chair

Philippe Defraigne, Founding Director, Cullen International

Jonas Ronkvist, Head of Data Business and Strategy, Volvo Cars

Andrea Sanders-Winter, Head of Subdivision, Bundesnetzagentur

Amal Taleb, Director of Public Affairs, SAP

Ilsa Godlovitch, Director Brussels, WIK-Consult

17:30 – 19:00 Cocktails

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2nd day: 14 September 2023

WHAT NEXT FOR TELECOMS POLICY?

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome

09:30 – 10:30 **DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE TELECOM SECTOR**

This year has seen the publication of major new regulatory initiatives to foster Gigabit Connectivity as well as a consultation on the future of the sector. In this opening session, we hear from the European Commission and BEREC Chair about their perspectives on these issues and what could be the main themes to come out of the sectoral consultation.

Chair *Dr Cara Schwarz-Schilling, General Manager, WIK*

KEYNOTE **Kamila Kloc**, Director, Electronic Communications, European Commission

KEYNOTE **Prof. Kostas Masselos**, BEREC Chair, President of EETT

10:30 – 11:30 **FUNDING THE DIGITAL DECADE CONNECTIVITY TARGETS: WHAT WILL WE NEED, AND WHO SHOULD PAY?**

According to studies conducted by WIK-Consult, by 2030 around half of households will make use of applications requiring Gigabit capabilities, and the costs of meeting these needs and densifying mobile networks could amount to €176bn. Increasing demand for data will also drive the need for more network capacity in the core network. We will explore where the money will come from to deploy access networks and expand core network capacity, whether there are ways to reduce the cost, whether there is a funding gap, and if so how it can best be addressed. In this context, we will also consider whether it is justified to require content providers to make payments to deploy Gigabit access networks, whether there are imbalances in negotiating power in transit and peering markets that would justify regulatory intervention, and the implications on net neutrality and consumer welfare. We will also discuss the roles of European funding programmes and Broadband State Aid (taking into account the new Guidelines adopted by the Commission) as well as the role that "universal service" could play in delivering "adequate" broadband in the digital decade.

Chair *Philippe Defraigne, Founding Director, Cullen International*

Christof Sommerberg, Senior Vice President Public Affairs, Deutsche Glasfaser

Maarit Palovirta, Senior Director Regulatory Affairs, ETNO

Thomas Volmer, Head of Global Content Delivery Policy, Netflix

11:30 – 12:00 Break

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12:00 – 13:10

EXPLORING THE GIGABIT INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

The draft Gigabit Infrastructure Act seeks to reduce barriers to the deployment of 5G and fibre networks, by extending permit exemptions, streamlining permit-granting processes and strengthening requirements for network operators and others (including infrastructure companies) to offer access to and exchange information about physical infrastructure. In this session, we debate the provisions and explore the steps national regulatory authorities and municipalities could take to accelerate deployment.

Chair **Dr Cara Schwarz-Schilling**, General Manager, WIK

Aurélie Bladocha Coelho, Head of EU Affairs and Funding, Vantage Towers

Arturs Alksnis, Public Affairs Director, FTTH Council Europe

Gonzalo Garcia Arribas, European Affairs and Regulation, Telefónica Group

Hannele Lahti, DG Connect, European Commission

13:10 – 13:30

MAXIMISING RETURNS FROM TELECOMS INVESTMENT

In this speech Richard Feasey considers the challenges facing telecom investors and regulators. How can telecom operators and their investors receive a financial return on their investments while ensuring that societal benefits are maximised? He considers the different industrial and public stakeholders involved, (perceived) problems in achieving sustainable returns and explores the solutions that have been pursued, ranging from structural interventions to demand-side stimulation.

Chair **Dr Cara Schwarz-Schilling**, General Manager, WIK

Richard Feasey, Inquiry Chair UK Competition & Markets Authority, CERRE senior advisor, Member of National Infrastructure Commission for Wales

13:30 – 14:30 *Lunch*

14:30 – 15:45

THE GIGABIT RECOMMENDATION: NEARING THE END-GAME FOR SMP REGULATION?

The draft Gigabit Recommendation foresees light touch regulation for fibre in cases where there are sufficient constraints from infrastructure competition and/or anchor products. It also seeks to accelerate the process for copper switch-off. In this session, we hear from the future Chair of BEREC and leading industry representatives about the future role of SMP regulation in telecoms in an environment increasingly characterised by wholesale only infrastructure companies and commercial deals, whether the draft Recommendation strikes the right balance between investment and competition as we head into an environment where FTTH networks dominate, and consider what impact it may have on NRA's market analyses going forward.

Chair **Ilsa Godlovitch**, Director, Brussels WIK-Consult

KEYNOTE	Tonko Obuljen , HAKOM, BEREC Chair 2024
KEYNOTE	Wolfgang Kopf , SVP Group Public & Regulatory Affairs, Deutsche Telekom AG
KEYNOTE	Maxime Lombardini , Vice-President Iliad Group & Free

Przemyslaw Kordasiewicz, DG Connect, European Commission

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15:45 – 17:00

KEYNOTE DEBATE: TELECOMS MARKETS IN 2030

In this session, through insights from academics, industrial leaders, MVNOs, cloud providers, infrastructure companies and telcos, we will explore how the telecoms value chain is evolving, and the role that different players could take. Will telecom operators will become "infrastructure as a service" or solution providers, or will the trend towards towercos, netcos and the cloudification of telecoms networks, alongside industry deploying its own private 5G networks leave telcos searching for a role? What stake will online platforms and application providers have in the new ecosystem? Will some networks (e.g. for industrial sites) become more localised, while others need to adapt to cross-border needs e.g. for IoT? What will be the implications for competition and consumer welfare? Should there be an expanded role for roaming regulation and/or cross-border spectrum assignment? What implications might these developments have on regulations regarding access and interoperability? Will the recently transposed EU electronic communications Code provide the tools needed if and where barriers arise? We will analyse the different scenarios that could emerge and explore the implications for competition and the future regulation of the sector.

Chair

Ilsa Godlovitch, Director, Brussels WIK-Consult

Federico Boccardi, Head of Telecom Policy, Europe, Amazon Web Services and Member of the Board of Advisors UK Telecoms Innovation Network

Philipp Riederer, VP Strategic Market Analysis & Business Growth Europe, American Tower Europe

Jacques Bonifay, CEO Transatel

Hans Hammar, Head of Business Strategy, Ericsson

Reinald Krueger, Chairman of the Board, GigaEurope

17:00

Conference close