

BEREC E-news

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### Brief summary of the results from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Plenary

BEREC held its 23rd meeting on 4 and 5 June 2015 in Bergen, Norway, hosted by [Nkom](#). During the plenary meetings BEREC adopted its Report on how consumers value net neutrality, which draws on consumer research to assess the demand-side forces operating over the Internet ecosystem. The report is designed to inform BEREC's approach to net neutrality going forward, and to support NRAs in their analysis of their national markets. The Board of Regulators also agreed to launch two public consultations. The first, which closes on 10 July, 2015, concerns its report on common characteristics of Layer 2 wholesale access products. Once the final report is adopted later this year, BEREC will consider the scope for developing a Common Position in order to further contribute to the harmonisation of product specifications for those wholesale access products. The second consultation is on BEREC's report on oligopoly analysis and regulation, and closes on 1 August, 2015.

After the plenary meetings BEREC published its latest report on fixed and mobile termination rates (as of January 2015), as well as its Annual report for 2014 on the activities of BEREC and on developments in the sector, which will now be submitted to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee, as well as the European Court of Auditors.

A full list of the documents adopted at the BEREC Plenary is available [here](#).

**The next meeting of the BoR will take place on 1 and 2 October 2015 in Riga (Latvia) and will be hosted by the Latvian Public Utilities Commission (SPRK). The meeting will be preceded by a Heads Workshop on the migration to all-IP networks for voice services.**



### BEREC welcomes the new EC initiative – Digital Single Market strategy

On 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 the European Commission introduced a new strategy for the [Digital Single Market \(DSM\)](#) that includes a set of targeted actions to be delivered by the end of 2016.

It is built on three pillars:

- 1) better access for consumers and businesses to digital goods and services across Europe;
- 2) creating the right conditions and a level playing field for digital networks and innovative services to flourish;
- 3) maximising the growth potential of the digital economy.

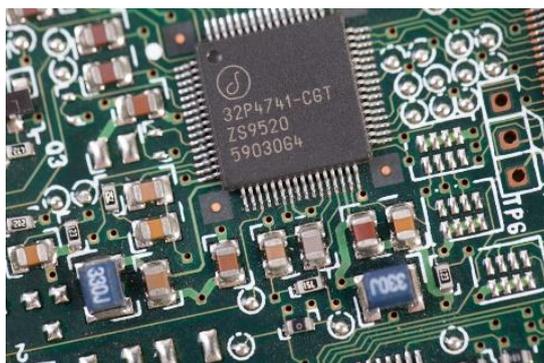


**BEREC welcomes the new initiative's overall goals of making the most of the growth potential of a barrier-free, seamlessly operational Digital Single Market.** BEREC appreciates the holistic approach to promote cross-sectoral measures, considering all factors that have an impact on the completion of the digital single market. Being aware that the measures related to the electronic communications sector represent an important element of the Commission's vision, BEREC particularly shares the view that telecommunications represent the backbone of digital products and services. BEREC agrees on the need for an assessment of the regulatory treatment of all players in the digital ecosystem in order to promote competition, encourage investment in new infrastructure and capitalise on innovation such as Cloud computing, Big Data tools or the Internet of Things.

At the same time, BEREC also recognises of the key role of the demand side in building a digital single market, considered from the perspective of consumers, businesses and public administrations respectively.

Through close and continuous cooperation with the European Commission, BEREC is pleased to contribute its expertise to the process and, in the exercise of its statutory duties, is considering the potential changes to the current electronic communications legislative framework. BEREC will be glad to share with the EU Institutions its ideas on the specific solutions that the EC proposes.

## BEREC Annual Report 2014



BEREC has an obligation to adopt:

- a) an Annual Report on its Activities**
- b) an Annual Report on the developments in the**

**electronic communications sector.** Following the decision taken by the Board of Regulators in 2013, the two reports are presented as two parts (Part A and Part B) of a single document and are published jointly.

[The annual report on BEREC activities in 2014](#) is based on the work streams and priorities identified in the [BEREC Work Programme for 2014](#) as well as all other key activities in 2014. A summary of the updated [BEREC Strategy 2015-2017](#) is also presented.

The report elaborates on the work conducted by [the expert working groups \(EWGs\)](#) and ad-hoc teams. In each section, following a description of the work performed during 2014, there is a list of relevant documents produced by the EWG. The report also includes information about Article 7/7a cases, describes the BEREC working structure and lists BEREC external events, workshops, speeches and presentations made by the BEREC Chairs and other relevant meetings.

The aim of the BEREC report on sector developments is to present the key trends in the electronic communications sector, addressing both market dynamics as well as the development of EU regulatory practices and public policies. The report is based on the findings of the BEREC Expert Working Groups in 2014, but also adopts a forward-looking approach.

In 2014 relevant developments in the electronic communications industry in Europe could be observed: deployment of next generation access networks (NGAs) and the take-up of very high speed connections grew significantly over the year.

Penetration of fixed and mobile broadband continued to increase leading to a general trend of declining prices, a higher variety of offers and more intense bundling took place, bringing significant benefits for consumers. Following the intervention of NRAs and the implementation of the European Commission Recommendation on termination rates, the wholesale rates both for mobile (MTRs) and fixed interconnection (FTRs) continued to decrease. Also, whilst in most EU countries, SMS services are not subject to a wholesale termination price regulation, a significant decrease has been observed in the SMS TRs in the EU markets.

Roaming Regulation III introduced structural changes by means of the separate sale of roaming services. Pursuant to Roaming Regulation III, retail consumers will have the possibility to pick a roaming provider for international roaming services other than the one supplying domestic mobile services, while keeping their phone number. Apart from these structural changes, a significant increase of the number of alternative tariffs offered by operators, as well as a trend towards offering

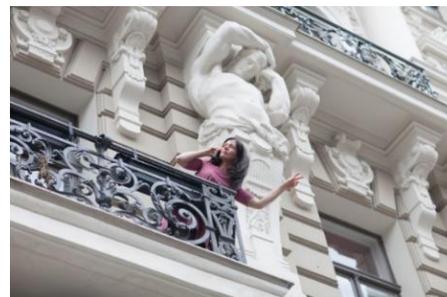
tariffs where consumers can use their domestic bundle when roaming (roam like at home tariffs) could be observed.

With respect to net neutrality, the Commission's Connected Continent proposals, presented in September 2013, included new, directly applicable rules on net neutrality. However some of these rules and definitions raised legal and policy concerns to be examined further.

In light of the Digital Agenda targets and national NGA roll out plans, the effective regulation of markets related to NGA networks and services remains one of the key challenges for regulators.

## BEREC Report on Fixed and mobile termination rates in the EU (as of January 2015)

The aim of this report is to offer a picture of the interconnection and termination prices, as well as the methodology used to set those rates in the cases of mobile, fixed and SMS communications in Europe, thus continuing the work started by ERG (European Regulators Group). Overview reports on FTRs, MTRs and SMS TRs are carried out twice a year.



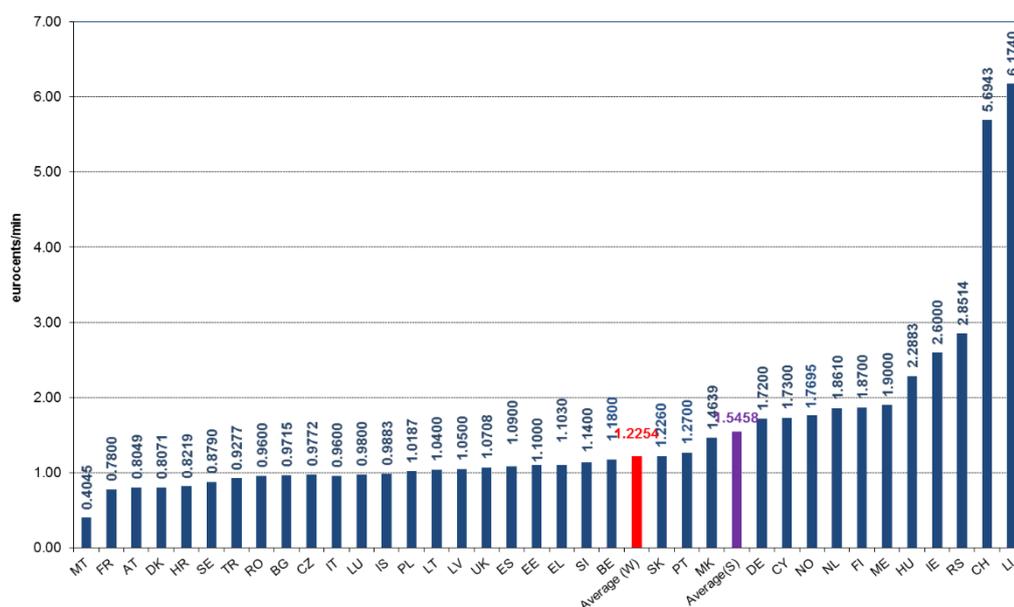
[The BEREC Report on Fixed and Mobile Termination \(as of January 2015\)](#) provides an overview of Mobile Termination Rates (MTR), Fixed Termination Rates (FTR) and SMS Termination Rates (SMS TR) per country, based on the results of a request for information sent to all National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs). The data reflects the situation as of 1 January 2015 and includes rates from 36 NRAs that provided responses.

As of January 2015, the situation regarding Termination Rates in Europe is as follows:

### Mobile Termination Rates

Mobile termination rates (MTRs) are regulated in all countries of the EU (28) and in the additional members of BEREC collected in this benchmarking report. The highest Mobile Termination Rates are in Lichtenstein with 6.1740 eurocents per minute, whilst in Malta the originating operators pay the lowest rates for mobile termination services, at 0.4045 eurocents per minute.

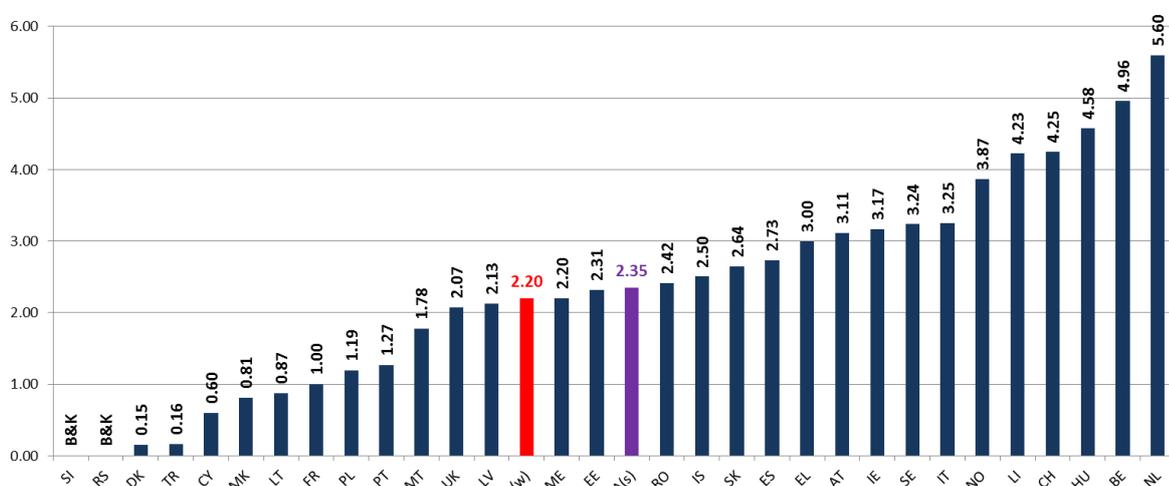
The simple average for the EU stands at 1.55 eurocents per minute, whereas the EU weighted average is estimated at 1.23 eurocents per minute.



## SMS Termination Rates

The short message service (SMS) offered by operators is used every day by millions of people all over the world. This service is not regulated in most EU countries, but the evolution of wholesale SMS termination rates is monitored in most cases by NRAs. Comparing the SMS termination rates, the highest rates are in the Netherlands, where the originating operators have to pay 5.60 eurocents per SMS. The lowest SMS termination rates are in Denmark and Turkey, where operators pay 0.15 and 0.16 eurocents respectively per SMS. Slovenia and Serbia are the only countries where “Bill&Keep” agreements are in place for traffic between all domestic operators.

The EU simple average is 2.35 eurocents per SMS, whereas the weighted average is reported to be 2.20 eurocents per SMS.

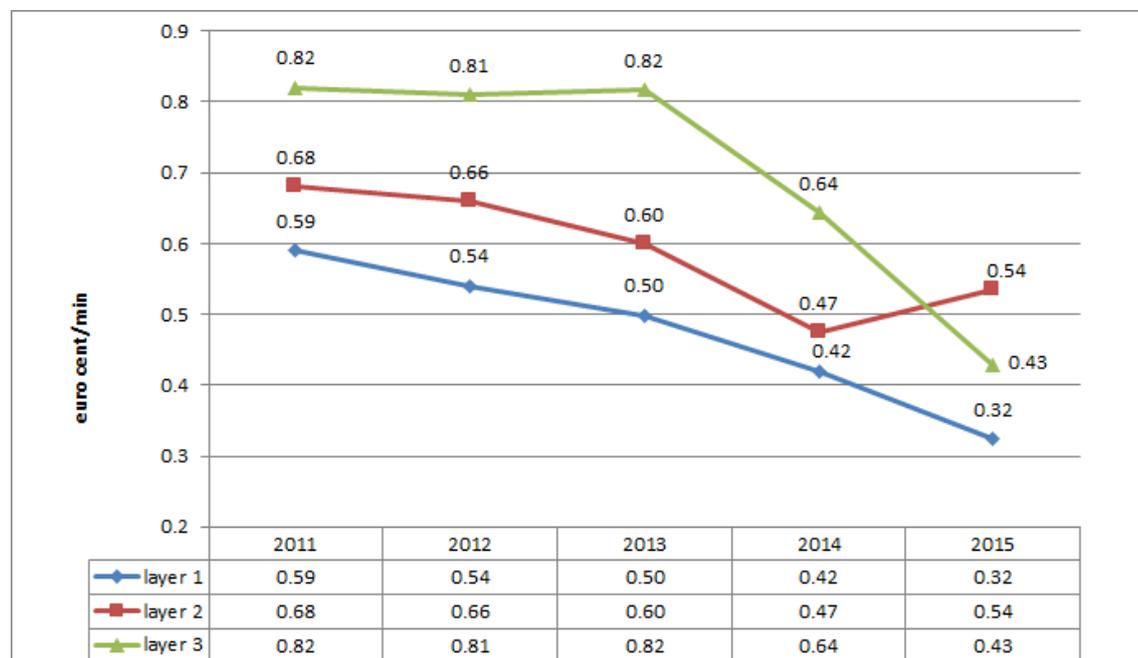


## Fixed Termination Rates

Fixed termination services in Europe are subject to price regulation. The regulation of Fixed Termination Rates has been harmonized by the Recommendation of 7.5.2009 on the Regulatory Treatment of Fixed and Mobile Termination Rates in the EU (C (2009) 3359 final). However, some differences can be found across the national regulatory regimes:

- 1) In some cases the termination rate is a two-part tariff, i.e. composed of a variable part (to be paid for each minute of a call) plus a set-up or fixed part (to be paid for each call). In other cases, termination prices consist only of the variable part.
- 2) Interconnection services in fixed networks are provided at different levels in the hierarchy of the incumbent’s networks, called layers. Even though some peculiarities in specific countries are present, in general three main layers for interconnection are defined: i) layer 1, or local level service provision, ii) layer 2, or regional level service provision (single transit), and iii) layer 3, national level service provision (or double transit).

**Glide path of the simple EU average of Termination Rates for incumbent operators' fixed networks**



The report also indicates that the termination rates for incumbent operators of fixed networks are generally following a decreasing trend, although Layer 2 rates have increased from 0.47 Eurocents per minute (2014) to 0.54 eurocents per minute (2015).

Taking into account the three main levels of fixed interconnection, the EU simple average for Layer 1 was reported to be 0.32 eurocents per minute. Regarding Layers 2 and 3, the EU simple average stands at 0.54 eurocents per minute and 0.43 eurocents per minute, respectively.

Additional information concerning the regulatory model used, short-term evolution of Termination Rates or development of averages over the last 11 years can be found in the report.

### BEREC Report: How do consumers value net neutrality in an evolving Internet marketplace?



In the broad net neutrality debate, the overall goal is the continued operation of the Internet as an open environment, enabling innovation and competition among service providers and enabling choice and freedom to communicate for consumers. The debate about net neutrality regulation is about the necessity for, and the form of, regulation to secure this outcome. The longer-term implications of the choices made by consumers, and of the broader societal implications of restrictions to Internet access, such as the possible impact on network effects of future applications, are important elements of the debate, and ones which regulators must take into account. Another essential consideration in this regulatory debate is the extent to which consumer behaviour, and the economic incentives and behaviour of ISPs, can be relied upon to maintain an open, innovative Internet.

BEREC has published a report, [How do consumers value net neutrality in an evolving Internet marketplace](#), which is intended to provide with an understanding of market dynamics relating to net neutrality, in particular from the end-user perspective. It is designed to both inform BEREC's general approach to net neutrality and to support National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) future analysis of their national markets, as well as to contribute to the continuing public debate on the complex issue of net neutrality.

To explore these issues, BEREC commissioned two pieces of research in order to gather material required to explore these issues:

- desk research to gather information already in the public domain, such as how consumers are using the Internet and how the market is developing, which can be [found here](#) and
- a consumer research study to gain an understanding of how consumers value net neutrality – the summary report can be [found here](#) and the full results [report here](#).

The consumer research was carried out in four countries - Croatia, the Czech Republic, Greece and Sweden - which were selected to represent different typical European country profiles. It was focused on a conjoint analysis in which respondents were asked to choose between pairs of hypothetical Internet access service offers to reveal the relative importance of different attributes. These attributes includes price and speed as well as traffic management attributes, such as whether a package was subject to any restrictions or prioritisations.

This report, and the underlying research, does not help determine whether the broad benefits of open Internet access require that all ISP services are neutral or unrestricted. Nor does it help determine whether it is merely necessary for such neutral services to predominate in the market, even if some providers offer – and some consumers choose – Internet access services which are in some way restricted. The evidence from the research suggests that consumers tend to prefer Internet access packages with normal access to popular applications, and that these are likely to be economically attractive for ISPs to offer. As long as there is transparency, and consumers are able easily to switch provider, such services seem likely to predominate, as they do at present.

However, it also seems possible that there are consumers who would prefer restricted Internet access services at sufficiently low prices, and that ISP provision of such services will also be economically viable, alongside the provision of open, unrestricted services, if permitted under national rules. An alternative would be to offer packages with lower access speed or data volume at reduced prices, which would allow end-users to decide how they use their Internet access.

The research shows that consumers put most emphasis on price in their purchase decision of an Internet access service, but also base their purchase decision on attributes that relate to traffic management. They prefer normal access to the application types that were included in the survey, and offers without data caps are most attractive to them.



Transparent, effects-based information can be effective in helping consumers with their purchase choice decision, and is more effective than educating them about the technical nature and operation of traffic management. However, for transparency to be effective, consumers need to be willing and able to switch. A significant proportion expressed a willingness to switch should their ISP introduce non-neutral traffic management practices, and at least half have already switched in all four test countries. Nevertheless, a significant minority of respondents reported that they had no real choice of alternative provider.

It is difficult to predict how significant a proportion of the market might be captured by restricted services in the long run; but without specific net neutrality regulatory policies they are likely to be available in the short term (as at present). If the policy is that such restrictive services must not be available, in order to capture the broad benefits of open Internet access, prescriptive regulation may be necessary. However, if policy-makers consider that sufficient benefits of open Internet access will be realised through a market structure which includes some restricted services but in which open Internet access is predominant, then competition, transparency and consumer switching would likely be sufficient. Under all circumstances, it will be important for NRAs to monitor

the nature and transparency of ISP offerings, the access services which consumers are choosing, their effects on innovation, as well as levels of competition and ease of switching – and to consider intervention if necessary.

## BEREC draft Report on Oligopoly Analysis and Regulation

The European electronic communications sector has seen the emergence of oligopolistic markets – those with a limited number of operators. There are several reasons for this. For example, fixed markets are evolving from a single SMP position to oligopolistic market structures, driven by the deployment of NGA networks and technological convergence; mergers and acquisitions are reducing the number of operators in



markets and there is an increased move to supplying bundled services, so that just a limited number of operators own both fixed and mobile network infrastructures.

Even if it is important to stress that BEREC considers that not all oligopolies raise competition issues, oligopolistic market settings may be of concern when they contribute to a non-competitive market outcome, resulting in significant consumer harm/welfare loss, and thus oligopolies may require regulatory action to address evident or potential market failures. These outcomes may be the result of tacitly colluding oligopolies (joint dominance) or of tight oligopolies where coordination does not occur but the market structure is not conducive to effective competition.

To remedy potential competition issues, the current regulatory framework provides NRAs in general with a tool box to assess and regulate non-competitive markets. While the regulatory framework applies the concept of joint dominance, which covers tacit collusion in line with competition law, *ex ante* regulation does not explicitly address tight oligopolies. Indeed, in order to trigger *ex ante* intervention NRAs must first prove dominance (joint or single) before imposing remedies on undertakings.

However, in the case of oligopolistic markets, assessing non-competitive outcomes may need further guidance for NRAs, since a small number of cases of joint dominance have been brought over the past decade by NRAs to the Commission and many of them were overturned or withdrawn. This may reflect that it is hard to demonstrate joint dominance and that more guidance may be needed for NRAs on how to intervene with *ex ante* regulation. In this respect, this BEREC draft report proposes to elaborate on criteria that NRAs could use to demonstrate joint dominance, in particular on the basis of [the Airtours' case](#), which is considered to be the key reference for NRAs when assessing joint dominance. Based on existing cases (both from NRAs' notifications and *ex post* competition law), BEREC offers further assistance for NRAs on the application of each criterion. The draft report highlights that terms of coordination are more likely to be reached where a focal point can be identified, firm structures and cost structures are symmetric, market shares and demand are stable, capacity constraints do not exist and long term financial incentives to collude exist.

Regarding tight oligopolies, the current regulatory framework does not explicitly address market failure of this kind. The BEREC draft report offers some insights to deal with potential issues raised by tight oligopolies, especially related to general competition law and the encompassed merger law. The Merger Regulation opened the discussion about the principle of dominance, when the test applied in merger assessment was modified in 2004 from a dominance test toward a less restrictive SIEC test that takes into account any significant impediment of effective competition (SIEC). This change implied that single and joint dominance (the latter being based on an analysis of tacit collusion or coordinated effects) were no longer the only form of competitive harm to be identified in the context of an EC merger review.

BEREC considers that this is a relevant precedent to be taken into account when reviewing the framework, while acknowledging that a direct transposition of the test applied to the market review process may not be straightforward, as the context in merger cases is different. The main conclusions and findings of this report are focused on providing recommendations for the review of



the regulatory framework regarding the regulatory treatment of oligopolies. BEREC's views on the evolution of the regulatory framework are to be established in a specific work stream where a comprehensive analysis on the needs to revise the regulatory framework will take place. This draft report can be considered as one of the inputs feeding into this discussion and does not preempt the recommendations to be produced by BEREC.

**The BEREC draft report on oligopoly analysis and regulation has been submitted for Public Consultation in 10 June 2015. [Stakeholders are invited to provide their views on this draft Report before 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2015.](#) BEREC aims to publish the final version of this Report at the end of 2015.**

### BEREC draft Report on “Common Characteristics of Layer 2 Wholesale Access Products in the European Union”



In recent years several National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) have imposed access to (active) layer 2 (Ethernet) wholesale access products (L2 WAP) as a remedy on the wholesale local access market (Market 4/2007) and/or the wholesale broadband access market (Market 5/2007). In order to get a deeper insight into these products and foster the exchange of experiences, as well as to contribute

to the harmonisation of regulatory instruments used in the European Union, the draft report on [“Common Characteristics of Layer 2 Wholesale Access Products in the European Union”](#) offers an overview of the L2 WAP of eight countries<sup>1</sup>, where the imposed L2 WAP is available, as well as two countries<sup>2</sup>, where the L2 WAP is not yet available, but is or will be imposed. The main objective of the report is to identify common characteristics of the L2 WAP of these ten countries.

The draft document covers both L2 WAP with local handover (also known as virtual unbundled local access (VULA)) and L2 WAP with handover at higher levels of the network hierarchy, e.g. regional handover (also known as enhanced bitstream). The analysis of the draft report is descriptive and does not aim at being normative. It is not intended to recommend a best practice.

The BEREC draft report on common characteristics of L2 WAP revealed that in the countries considered, L2 WAP with local handover is imposed where physical unbundling is no longer technically possible or economically viable due to the NGA rollout by the incumbent operator. Therefore, the L2 WAP with local handover used in these countries aims, to the extent possible, to offer alternative network operators (ANOs) the same flexibility to provide different products and to innovate as achieved with physical unbundling. However, for ANOs the flexibility and the potential to differentiate is lower compared to physical unbundling since L2 WAP provides a service (not a physical medium) and the technological capabilities of the network of the provider of L2 WAP have to be taken into account. Nonetheless, the report shows that regulation usually aims, as much as possible and proportionate, to enable ANOs to provide a variety of services for residential and business customers (including voice, internet, IPTV, data) based on L2 WAP with local handover.

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<sup>1</sup> Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom

<sup>2</sup> Germany and the Netherlands

The BEREC draft report on common characteristics of L2 WAP identified the following nine common characteristics for L2 WAP with local handover which contribute to the regulatory objective discussed above.

**1. Technology: The L2 WAP is based on Ethernet**

Ethernet is the most commonly used interface in both packet based transport networks of service providers and local area networks (LAN) of end users. The L2 WAP analysed are based on the Ethernet protocol and provide an Ethernet service to ANOs.

**2. Availability: The L2 WAP is (or will be) available at least in the NGA rollout areas.**

The L2 WAP analysed is available at least in areas where physical unbundling is no longer technically possible or economically viable due to the NGA rollout by the incumbent operator.

**3. CPE/Modem: ANOs can use and configure their own CPE/modems at least in case of FTTC/B**

The use of their own CPE/modems enables ANOs to further differentiate their services and to innovate. In the countries analysed, the CPE/modems that ANOs are allowed to use must not harm the network integrity and must interwork with the network of the provider of the L2 WAP.

**4. Bandwidth: ANOs have the possibility to control the speed of their services within the limit(s) of the bandwidth profile(s) of the subscriber access line.**

The possibility to control the speed of their services enables ANOs to differentiate the download and upload speed of services from other operators. In all countries covered by the report asymmetric bandwidth profiles are available.

**5. Quality of Service: The L2 WAP provides at least ostensibly uncontended bandwidth or a bandwidth with a defined QoS**

Both a bandwidth which is at least ostensibly uncontended and a bandwidth with a defined quality of service (QoS) with sufficient high quality level enable ANOs to choose the quality of their services and to provide services with higher QoS requirements.

**6. Traffic Prioritisation: The L2 WAP supports different traffic priorities.**

Traffic prioritisation increases the flexibility of ANOs in the design of their products and enables ANOs to use the bandwidth of L2 WAP more efficiently (e.g. by prioritising voice traffic over Internet traffic).

**7. Number of VLANs: The L2 WAP provides several VLANs per end user unless additional wholesale products are available.**

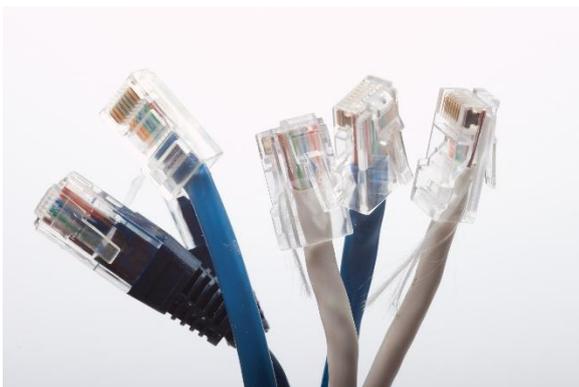
The availability of several VLANs per end user may facilitate the provisioning of services and traffic forwarding unless additional wholesale products are available based on which ANOs provide services.

**8. Customer Identification: The L2 WAP enables ANOs to identify their end users.**

Customer identification enables ANOs to provide individual services to their subscribers and to authorise for each customer individually which network resources (services) the customer can use (e.g. limiting the internet access speed based on what the subscriber has signed up for).

**9. Security: The L2 WAP enables ANOs to apply security measures.**

With security measures network operators can preserve the integrity and availability of their networks and services. ANOs have the possibility to apply any security measure they would like to use at layer 3 and higher layers.



The BEREC draft report on common characteristics of L2 WAP further shows that the reason why L2 WAP with regional handover is imposed by NRAs is usually to give ANOs more flexibility and a higher degree of freedom regarding product characteristics compared to a layer 3 product (IP bitstream). The regulation usually aims, as much as possible and proportionate, to enable ANOs to provide a variety

of services for residential and business customers (including voice, internet, IPTV, data) also with L2 WAP with regional handover. The BEREC report on common characteristics of L2 WAP identified the same common characteristics for the L2 WAP with regional handover as for the L2 WAP with local handover except for common characteristics 5 and 7.

**The BEREC draft report on common characteristics of L2 WAP is published for [public consultation and all stakeholders and interested parties are invited to provide their views on this report until 10 July.](#)**

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> BEREC Stakeholders Forum 15 October, 2015

The BEREC Stakeholder Forum will take place on 15 October 2015 at the [Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel](#). This will be the third time that BEREC hosts the Forum, and once more the objective will be to strengthen the dialogue between the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) with primary responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day operation of the markets for electronic communications networks and services established in the EU member states, and the relevant stakeholders on issues of strategic importance.

The Forum was established with a view to providing a direct interactive platform for discussion between BEREC and its stakeholders. This platform supports the traditional consultation process, which takes place before the adoption of final versions of BEREC documents. As a 2015 BEREC Vice-Chair, [ComReg](#) has been tasked with setting the agenda for the Forum and organising key speakers for the event.



#### **Agenda and speakers**

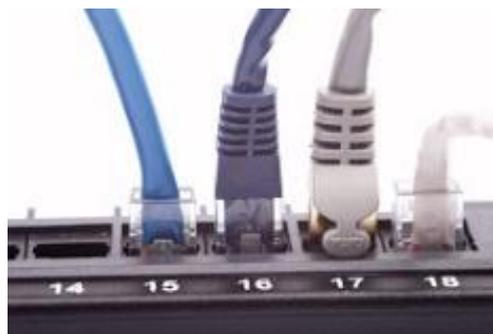
In addition to providing a platform for discussion on the Review of the Regulatory Framework (the Review), the Forum will also host a debate on the BEREC 2016 Work Programme (2016 WP). It is expected that the 2016 WP will be consulted on in the period leading up to the Forum, which will allow for an oral hearing at the Forum, as was achieved successfully in 2014. [BNetzA](#), as the incoming BEREC Chair for 2016, will have a central role during the first session of the morning, and it is expected that various stakeholders will present their opinions and responses to the 2016 WP.

It is proposed that the second session of the morning will focus on a potential 'industrial revolution' that will have a significant, positive impact on a wide range of industry sectors, including energy, transport, manufacturing and health. It is described by terms such as 'Machine-to-Machine Communication' (M2M) or 'Internet of Things' (IoT) and involves a large number of devices communicating with one another primarily across the Internet using fixed and mobile access networks.

The BEREC NGN Expert Working Group (EWG) is currently drafting a report on Machine-to-Machine Communications (including issues related to IoT), intended to be consulted on in Q3 2015. Therefore, it is timely to provide a platform for stakeholders to voice their opinions on this important issue during the Forum in October. [AGCOM](#) (as leader of the NGN EWG subgroup for this work stream) will play a lead role for this discussion.

The afternoon sessions will be entirely devoted to an open discussion on matters relating to the digital ecosystem<sup>3</sup>. This year's Forum will be of particular importance as it comes at a time when the European Commission has launched its [Digital Single Market \(DSM\)](#) strategy, part of which will, of course, be the Review of the Regulatory Framework. At the 23<sup>rd</sup> BEREC Plenary (Bergen), the European Commission gave a presentation on the DSM strategy and confirmed that the Review will focus on access and connectivity; services and end-users' rights; US role and changes; and governance of the sector.

The Commission indicated that it will request a BEREC input to the process, covering a retrospective evaluation of the current Framework as well as suitable legislative changes. A BEREC Opinion will have to be adopted at the 25<sup>th</sup> BEREC Plenary (London) in December. Therefore the Forum will provide a timely opportunity for BEREC to discuss with stakeholders these issues.



Günther Oettinger, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, is expected to attend the afternoon session and give a keynote address.

This session will also feature a moderated panel discussion with speakers from international companies representing the digital ecosystem; networking and telecommunications equipment and services industry, the traditional telecommunications industry, and the broader software and cloud-computing services and products industry.

### Logistics

**The number of seats in the meeting room at the Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel will be limited to 160. BEREC advises participants to register by 1 September 2015. Details of registration can be accessed [here](#).**

The BEREC Office would like to inform the participants that the event will be filmed and that the images of the event may be streamed online and/or recorded for future use. Full speeches or parts of them may be reused for internal documentation, public communication activities or academic use. Participation in the meeting involves the acceptance of being filmed and no restriction fee will be asked for any use or reuse of the recorded images.

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<sup>3</sup> "Broadband adoption, technological advances and decreased operating costs have pushed the IT, Telecommunications and Media and Entertainment industries into a period of great flux. As they converge, they are forming a space we could call the Digital Ecosystem. This emerging Digital Ecosystem is generating many risks and challenges for government policies, as well as presenting new opportunities for creating social and economic value." – World Economic Forum.

**BEREC calendar of events in 2015**

Activity	Date	Organiser	Venue
<b>Public debriefing</b>	<b>19 June</b>	<b>BEREC Office</b>	<b>Brussels (Belgium)</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> CN meeting	10-11 September	RTR	<b>Vienna (Austria)</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Plenary meeting	1 – 2 October	SPRK	<b>Riga (Latvia)</b>
<b>Public Debriefing</b>	<b>9 October</b>	<b>BEREC Office</b>	<b>Brussels (Belgium)</b>
<b>Stakeholders Forum</b>	<b>15 October</b>	<b>BEREC Office</b>	<b>Brussels (Belgium)</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> CN meeting	19-20 November	CNMC	<b>Barcelona (Spain)</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting	9-11 December	OFCOM	<b>London (United Kingdom)</b>
<b>Public Debriefing</b>	<b>16 December</b>	<b>BEREC Office</b>	<b>Brussels (Belgium)</b>

**For further information:**

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