



## **BEREC – EMERG – EAPeREG - REGULATEL SUMMIT**

### **CHALLENGES FOR TELECOMS IN THE NEW INTERNET ECOSYSTEM**

**BARCELONA, SPAIN | 2-3 JULY 2015**

#### **DECLARATION**

BEREC (the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications) and its counterparts from EaPeReg (Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network), REGULATEL (Latin American Forum of Telecommunications Regulators) and EMERG (Euro-Mediterranean Regulators Group) have met in Barcelona, on the 2nd and 3rd July, for the high level BEREC-EMERG-EaPeReg-REGULATEL Summit. Representatives from the European Commission and from the BEREC Office were also present. The meeting has been hosted by the Spanish National Authority for Markets and Competition (CNMC).

The main objective of this Summit was the discussion of the current challenges for the electronic communications sector in the new Internet ecosystem.

In this context, the representatives from the participating regulators' networks recalled:

- that the once well-known borders of Information Society sectors are eroding with the emergence of new ecosystems, comprising a number of different players; that there is increased convergence of traditionally separate communications networks; that traditional telecoms industry players are now providing media services, and Over-The-Top players and manufacturers of terminal equipment are challenging conventional business models in the telecoms sector, this being reflected by the impact of IP technology and fixed/mobile convergence on the traditional relationships between retail and wholesale markets;
- that those new ecosystems aggregate different technology trends - the so called "Big 5" (Cloud, Big Data, Internet of Things, mobile and video) – which are expected to have great impact at the electronic communications sector;



- that mobility and increased bandwidth are fundamental drivers for the development of new services; that consumers are using their mobile devices to access a growing range of new services and applications, from commerce to entertainment, social media and personal communications; and that, as a result, data traffic in mobile networks is increasing dramatically;
- that, in this context, the electronic communications sector is being confronted with both unprecedented challenges and opportunities deriving from new technologies and players;
- that consumers' needs and behaviors are evolving quickly, turning protection and empowerment of consumers as well as connectivity, crucial;
- that new bottlenecks may emerge that highlight the importance of promoting competition as the best driver for investment into high-speed infrastructures for the benefit of consumers;
- that high speed broadband take-up is still very low despite the high level and quality of broadband coverage in many regions; that, in some cases, the lack of demand remains a concern which has to be appropriately addressed; that cooperation among authorities should be promoted in order to ensure connectivity; that consumers should be able to use high-speed broadband at affordable prices and that this could create some challenges in the rural and more sparsely populated areas, which must be addressed adequately, including through attracting private investment and/or using public funds when the market fails to deliver choices;
- the importance to comply with and promote the open Internet principle and that it is of every citizen's right to access Internet content of their choice, without discrimination nor being unfairly blocked or slowed down.

Finally, the participants also reminded the cooperative principles enshrined at the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) already signed between BEREC and its counterparts from EMERG, REGULATEL and EaPeReg.

In this context, BEREC, EMERG, REGULATEL and EaPeReg declare that:

- as regulators, we must look ahead to the challenges and to the rapidly evolving future as well as to our role in such a context;



- we all gain from the cooperative regulatory dialogue on these issues among our platforms, given the merit of knowing different perspectives and new approaches to the same challenges;
- this Summit was a unique, valuable and consistent opportunity to have a more enhanced regulatory dialogue, which ultimately may contribute to the promotion of future cooperation initiatives, and leading to improved regulatory practices in the respective regions;
- commitment is assured in the promotion of joint expert working groups, within which in-depth discussion on commonly identified topics under the framework of the above mentioned MoUs shall be pursued;
- efforts shall be undertaken with a view of keeping this high level regulatory dialogue through future joint Summits.

Barcelona, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2015.

(s)

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