

## Developments at EU level October to December 2011

### October 2011

#### **Commission pushes for effective deployment of pan-European mobile satellite services**

10 October 2011 — The European Commission adopted a decision which would allow it to coordinate the efforts of EU Member States to accelerate the commercial deployment of pan-European Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) and, if need be, to adopt appropriate enforcement measures. Mobile satellite services use radio spectrum to provide access to communication services, such as Internet access, mobile multimedia/radio and emergency services for all Europeans, however remote the area in which they live. The Commission has taken this decision following the expiry of a two-year period which two operators, Inmarsat Ventures Limited and Solaris Mobile Limited, were given to deploy mobile satellite services systems across Europe.

#### **The European Disability Forum's toolkit on the Telecoms Package**

12 October 2011 — EDF presented its Telecoms Package Toolkit to support the efforts to bring a real change for persons with disabilities to equally access e-communications. This Toolkit lists the provisions related to e-accessibility for persons with disabilities in the EU Regulatory Framework for Electronic Communications Networks and Services (the Telecoms Package) and gives insights on how they could be understood to enable a full and common understanding throughout the EU. This toolkit is primarily targeted at EDF member organizations to enhance their capacity in following up on the transposition into national legislation and the implementation of the Telecoms Package; but, it could also be useful to anyone who wishes to better understand the disability-related provisions in the Telecoms Package. The toolkit is available on alternative format upon demand.

Contact: **Nadège Riche, EDF Policy Officer**

#### **Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda**

**Opening Europe's telecoms markets - BEREC's crucial role** - Opening Speech for the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) Office, Riga, Latvia, 14 October 2011

#### **Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda**

**e-Communications: making Europe the connected, competitive continent** - Conference on Perspectives for the development of the electronics communications market in the EU. Warsaw, Poland, 19th October 2011

#### **Madrid hospital sends patients appointment reminders via SMS**

19 October 2011 — At the beginning of October 2011, the Tajo Hospital in Madrid started implementing an SMS reminder system for medical appointments. This new means of communication has been made possible as a result of a new mobile device application that was developed by the hospital's Admissions Service and IT Department. This new software sends an SMS which notifies patients of the date, approximate time and exact location of a consultation 48 hours before the scheduled appointment.

#### **Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda**

**Connecting Europe Facility – broadband and digital infrastructure services**

Press briefing. Warsaw, Poland, 19th October 2011

#### **Digital Agenda: Commission proposes over €9 billion for broadband investment**

19 October 2011 — The European Commission has proposed to spend almost €9.2 billion from 2014 to 2020 on pan-European projects to give EU citizens and businesses access to high-speed broadband networks and the services that run on them. The funding, part of the proposed Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), would take the form of both equity and debt instruments and grants. It would complement private investment and public money at local, regional and national level and EU structural or cohesion funds. At least €7 billion would be available for investment in high-speed broadband infrastructure.

#### **Online survey on immigrants and information and communication technologies**

8 November 2011 — A research project funded by the European Commission has launched an online survey to see how immigrants use new information and communication technologies. Participants are asked how they use the Internet and mobile phones to talk with friends, to find information, to get a job, and to participate in the local community and wider society. The survey takes 15 minutes to complete, and one in ten respondents will receive 15 minutes of free phone calls as a reward.

See also: **Further information about the project**

### **Digital Agenda: Commission requests Estonia and Slovakia to comply with public sector information rules**

27 October 2011 — The European Commission has requested Estonia and Slovakia to bring their laws in line with EU rules on the re-use of public sector information (PSI). These countries are not currently guaranteeing fair conditions for re-use of public sector information, in breach of the EU's PSI Directive. Estonia and Slovakia have failed to correctly implement most provisions of the Directive, including the prohibition of discriminatory or monopolistic practices by public bodies.

### **Digital Agenda: Commission requests Greece to implement rules to facilitate telecom networks roll-out**

27 October 2011 — The European Commission has requested Greece to adopt legislation to make it easier for telecom operators to install facilities such as ducts, manholes, masts or antennae on, over or under public or private property. Greece was originally scheduled to adopt legislation on such rights of way by the end of 2006 when the country implemented the 2002 EU telecoms rules. But not all the necessary rules have yet been put in place.

### **Survey on awareness of 116**

27 October 2011 — The European Commission published a survey on awareness of 116, pan- EU numbers for hot- and helplines. The survey showed that citizens across the EU expressed strong support for the five types of hot- and helplines (85-91% of Europeans think that these numbers are fairly or very useful) which demonstrates the importance of providing these services free of charge and of unifying them under a single numbering range throughout the EU.

### **Digital Single Market closer to completion with new Radio Spectrum Policy**

28 October 2011 — Member States' representatives in the Council have endorsed a text drawn up with the European Parliament and the Commission that paves the way for setting a comprehensive European radio policy, providing the platform for further improvements to wireless services. The new agreement will foster the roll-out of high speed wireless broadband systems, in particular by requiring Member States to authorise the use of the "digital dividend" 800 MHz band for wireless broadband by January 2013 in all but exceptional circumstances. Moreover, the agreed text will create a wide-ranging and thorough European inventory of spectrum use in the Member States, which will be essential to ensure the most efficient allocation of scarce spectrum resources for wireless services in Europe.

### **Digital Agenda: award-winning EU-funded project could bring more powerful broadband connections**

28 October 2011 — An EU funded project which has developed a long-term solution to Internet traffic congestion has just received a prize at Future Internet Week in Poznan, Poland. The TRILOGY project received the Future Internet Award for its outstanding contribution to the Internet architecture and protocols, which could help provide Europeans with faster, more reliable Internet connections.

## **November 2011**

### **Digital Agenda: EU & US conduct readiness tests for cyber attacks in "Cyber Atlantic 2011"**

4 November 2011 — The first test of trans-Atlantic responses to cyber incidents, including cyber attacks, took place in Brussels on 3 November. Experts from the US Government joined counterparts from EU Member States to simulate how cyber security authorities on both sides of the Atlantic would cooperate in response to attacks. Two hypothetical scenarios were tested: a cyber-attack which attempts to extract and publish online sensitive information from the EU's national cyber security agencies, and an attack on supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems in EU power generation equipment.

### **Commission questions plans for regulating mobile termination rates in Poland and starts an in-depth review**

7 November 2011 — The European Commission has written to the Polish telecoms regulator, UKE, to express its serious doubts about the compatibility with EU law of UKE's proposed regulation of mobile termination rates (MTRs). This is the first time the Commission decided to use its new powers under Article 7a of the Telecoms Framework Directive to scrutinise remedies proposed by national regulators.

## **Towards a low carbon economy – broadband networks and smart grids: the intersection between ICT and Energy – 23 NOV 2011**

This event, organised by ETNO, sought to foster an open discussion among the ICT and energy industries and policy makers to find synergies, opportunities and a common view for the successful development of broadband networks and smart grids in Europe. Topics for discussion included business models, regulatory aspects and privacy issues.

### **Parental control tools need to be more effective for today's and tomorrow's internet**

15 November 2011 — Results from a study just released by the European Commission show that parental control tools tested have become more effective at blocking adult content and other harmful content since the first tests conducted last year. However the tools are less efficient at filtering content related to racism and self-harm (sites promoting anorexia, suicide or self-mutilation). In general, the tools cannot filter all the different kinds of user generated content on the internet – while they can block access to things like social networks and streaming services, only very few tools are able to filter contacts in applications such as Skype and MSN.

### **Indicators for independence and efficient functioning of audiovisual media services regulatory bodies for the purpose of enforcing the rules in the AVMS Directive**

15 November 2011 The INDIREG Study was conducted on behalf of the European Commission and aimed to analyse the effective implementation of the legal framework for the functioning of the media regulatory bodies in the Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries of the European Union as well as identifying the key characteristics of an independent regulatory body. The authors of the study devised a tool for the self-assessment of independence and efficient functioning of the media regulatory bodies, based on formal and de facto criteria, such as status and powers, financial autonomy, autonomy of decision-makers, knowledge and accountability and transparency mechanism.

### **Ex-ante advertising for a negotiated procedure for a service contract of a value below or equal to 60.000€ - INFSO.C.4 – Supply of market data on online content, services and applications available on fixed and mobile broadband platforms**

16 November 2011 — The Directorate General for Information Society and Media (DG INFSO) of the European Commission is looking for market data and intelligence on business and consumers online content, services and applications available on fixed and mobile broadband platforms. These data will support the activities of this Directorate General in the context of the European Digital Agenda, Europe's strategy for a flourishing digital economy by 2020. The Directorate General for Information Society and Media will use this market data and intelligence in its policy development activities, namely in the field of broadband and online content and services. Deadline: to be announced

### **Introduction of Harmonised technical conditions for the terrestrial 2 GHz band**

15 November 2011 — The European Commission has just launched a public consultation on the introduction of technical harmonisation measures at EU level in the terrestrial 2 GHz band (1900-1980 MHz, 2010-2025 MHz and 2110-2170 MHz). The use of this band in the EU is currently restricted only to UMTS, whereby parts of it remain largely unused. The collected feedback will be assessed in the process of preparing a Commission Implementing Decision in 2012, supported by an Impact Assessment. The consultation closes on 18 January 2012.

### **European Commission officials visit member states to present the Digital Agenda for Europe Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain**

European Commission officials participated in events organised from November 21 to November 25 in Austria (Vienna and Styria), Belgium (Namur), Cyprus (Nicosia), Estonia (Tallinn), Greece (Athens), Hungary (Balatonfüred), Italy (Bologna, Palermo and Rome), Malta (Valletta), Slovakia (Bratislava), Slovenia (Ljubljana), Spain (Madrid), in order to present to stakeholders and the public the Digital Agenda for Europe. The events focused on issues like broadband, the digital single market, digital inclusion, public services, research and innovation, low carbon economy, eSkills, Green ICT, rural broadband, digital growth, smart cities, internet security, eInclusion. The visits were part of the Going Local exercise, run by the European Commission for the second year in a row, in order to foster a public dialogue on the Digital Agenda goals. See also: **Digital Agenda Going Local 2011 - Upcoming meetings**

### **Commission halts plans to control prices for Polish mobile operator AERO2**

21 November 2011 — Using new powers under Article 7a of the Telecoms Directive, the European Commission has halted plans by Polish telecoms regulator (UKE) to set mobile termination rates for AERO2, a Polish mobile operator, without conducting a market analysis first. UKE's proposal would set rates at more than double the prices offered by AERO2's four main competitors, without justifying why such rates are needed. The arbitrary nature of this proposal therefore violates a key EU regulatory principle.

### **Commission indicates no fundamental change to Universal Service**

23 November 2011 — The European Commission has announced that there is currently no need to change the basic concept, principles or scope of EU rules on Universal Service to include mobile telecommunications services and broadband connections at EU level. The Commission has come to this conclusion on the basis of a public consultation and its third periodic review of the scope of this service.

### **Commission presses 16 Member States to implement new EU telecoms rules**

24 November 2011 — The European Commission has written to sixteen Member States which have failed to fully implement new EU telecoms rules into national law, six months after the deadline to do so (25 May 2011). Partial implementation of the EU Telecoms rules limit consumers' rights in these 16 Member States. The new rules give EU customers new rights regarding fixed telephony, mobile services and Internet access. For instance, the right to switch telecoms operators in one day without changing their phone number and the right to clarity about data traffic management practices employed by Internet Service Providers. There is now also better protection of privacy and personal data online.

See also: **Overview of telecoms infringement proceedings**

### **Overview of telecoms infringement proceedings**

24 November 2011 — EU Law: Commission acts to ensure that European legislation is fully and properly implemented.

### **Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda Incentives to invest in the future: creating an open, competitive telecoms market**

Speech to ECTA (European Competitive Telecommunications Association), Brussels, 28 November 2011

### **Submitted by Danish Technological Institute (DK) in cooperation with empirica (DE), European Regional Information Society Association, Centre for Urban & Regional Development Studies (UK), Cities on the Internet (PL)**

### **Study on the development of the Information Society in EU rural development and regional policies**

28 November 2011 - Second generation digital divide risks increasing the development gap between EU regions, says EC study. Differences in income, education, and lack of ICT skills, employment status, and a cultural context alien to innovation are actively preventing regions to close the development gap with other regions. Gaps are also evident in access, higher costs, lower speeds, poor quality and reliability of ICT services, lower internet use, less broadband take up, less PC penetration and poor digital literacy. The study calls for a much more central role of for local and regional authorities in the roll out of Next Generation Networks to avoid second generation digital divide.

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## December 2011

### **Coalition of top tech & media companies to make internet better place for our kids**

1 December 2011 — 28 leading companies have come together to form a new Coalition to make a better and safer internet for children. Put together by the Commission, founding Coalition members are: Apple, BSkyB, BT, Dailymotion, Deutsche Telekom, Facebook, France Telecom-Orange, Google, Hyves, KPN, Liberty Global, LG Electronics, Mediaset, Microsoft, Netlog, Nintendo, Nokia, Opera Software, Research in Motion, RTL Group, Samsung, Sulake, Telefonica, TeliaSonera, Telenor Group, Tuenti, Vivendi, Vodafone. Priority actions include making it easier to report harmful content, ensuring privacy settings are age-appropriate, and offering wider options for parental control, reflecting the needs of a generation that is going online at an increasingly young age.

See also: **Neelie Kroes: industry delivering a safer internet for kids**

### **Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda IPv6: letting the Internet meet its potential**

German IPv6 Summit 2011, Potsdam, 1 December 2011

### **Analysys Mason for the European Commission Guide to broadband investment**

1 December 2011- Final report of a study for an EU guide on models for investment for Public Authorities investing EU funds in NGA infrastructure. This guide is the result of a joint effort from Analysys Mason, various Commission services, the European Broadband Portal and the Bottom up Broadband initiative born under the Digital Agenda for Europe. Publication of the official version of the guide will follow soon.

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## **DIW Econ for the European Commission**

### **Economic Analysis of the Single Market for an Information Society**

2 December 2011 - In parallel with the legal analysis, the Commission published an Economic Analysis of the Single Market for an Information Society carried out by the external consultant DIW Econ. The study found that ICT, e-Business and e-Commerce are all tools that can help accelerate economic growth as well as improve European economic integration. For example, ICT infrastructure, skills and usage have resulted in a statistically significant increase in cross-border trade flows among European countries. Additionally, the variation in prices was much lower for countries that have implemented the Euro, signalling that the idea of the Single Market can be found in an electronic internet form as well. However, EU Member States are not at the same level of ICT infrastructure and e-Business and e-Commerce usage. While many countries can compete on the world stage, other countries lag far behind which leaves room for further government support. Moreover, even in countries with high levels of infrastructure and usage, much government work can be done to further foster the climate needed for a more comprehensive information society. This work requires policy initiatives to create the correct institutional and legal frame conditions that allow ICT and e-Business to thrive. The study proposes a new policy outlook for the information society.

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### **European Commission harmonises new licence-exempt frequency bands for wireless innovations**

8 December 2011 — The European Commission has today updated spectrum harmonisation conditions for short-range devices (SRD) in the internal market. SRDs play an important role in the daily life of citizens. Numerous applications such as alarms, door openers, medical devices, but also local communications equipment such as Wi-Fi routers, rely on these low power radio transmitters. The newly harmonised licence-exempt frequency bands can be used by intelligent transport systems, vehicle radars and for non-specified purposes. Additionally, the technical conditions for a number of devices, such as RFID and inductive devices, are made less restrictive.

See also: [Short range devices](#)

## **16 December 2011**

### **Promoting the shared use of radio spectrum resources in Europe**

Brussels, Belgium

This workshop, hosted by the European Commission, will present the results of an independent study on "shared spectrum access" carried out for the European Commission. Stakeholders are invited to discuss the key findings of the study with the authors. Interested parties can also contribute to the workshop and to the open discussion by submitting their ideas in advance to the workshop organizers.