



Mr Günther Oettinger

Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

29 August 2016

Dear Commissioner,

Ahead of the fast-approaching Commission proposals and guidance around telecommunications in Europe, BusinessEurope would like to provide some thoughts on the priority areas for the future development of telecoms and the EU economy in general. Our considerations are based on input received from our membership across various sectors.

Europe's ability to invest in broadband and digital services has an important role for all European businesses. Industry believes your work on 5G and on the review of the Telecoms Framework will prove crucial for the entire EU economy. Ultimately, it can make a concrete difference as to our growth ambitions as a Continent.

On 5G, there is plenty of enthusiasm and commitment from all sides. Industry is accelerating the launch of trials, which are expected to make an important contribution to the upcoming 5G action plan. The ongoing involvement of many sectors will be the basis for innovation and new growth streams.

The right policy conditions should be put in place for Europe to take the lead on 5G connectivity. For many applications addressing new societal demands, such as real-time power-grid management, remote medical treatment or Connected and Automated Driving, industry will need communication infrastructures providing much higher quality standards besides pure bandwidth.

On the Review of the Telecoms rules, businesses also have many positive expectations. The Commission's pro-investment message will hopefully help operators to attract additional resources for extensive broadband deployment. Markets and investors will need to be convinced and bet on their gigabit ambitions.

For this reason, it is vital that your positive message is translated into pro-investment and technology neutral rules, that allow for a market driven roll-out of broadband and the safeguard and promotion of competition. Analysts and investors should get a clear signal that Europe wants to achieve a balance between protecting competition and allowing more space to commercial freedom, promoting simplification of regulation and returns on network investment. Moreover, BusinessEurope supports plans for a more consistent and coordinated EU spectrum policy, which is also a prerequisite for a successful roll-out of 5G.



In achieving the above aims, it is important that the new rules are 'fit for purpose' and do not stifle the development of - and investment in - new innovative services - this is particularly the case for new services and communications which are still at a relatively early stage. Many of the purpose cases for which these services can be used have not yet been developed and therefore flexibility needs to be built in to enable a future-proof legal regime. The Review also provides an opportunity to consider whether many of the existing rules continue to be relevant for traditional services and if not, to remove and/or amend such rules to better adapt to market and technology developments. This will free-up businesses from outdated and excessive regulatory burden and enable them to better focus their time and resources on developing and investing in state-of-the-art services.

Thank you for taking the time to read our views. BusinessEurope stands ready to support you in your work.

Should you wish to learn more about the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Markus J. Beyrer