



11 July 2025

## BusinessEurope's Contribution to the Call for Evidence for the Digital Networks Act

BusinessEurope welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Call for Evidence on the future legislative initiative "Digital Networks Act" (DNA). First we would like to remind that in September 2024, we published a [high-level reaction](#) to the "White Paper: How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs?". The White Paper highlighted the need to assess how existing and recently adopted EU rules interact, as their combined impact on electronic communications networks and services has not yet been fully understood. We welcomed this recognition of complexity (shared by the Commission, and in BEREC's response to that White Paper). As a cross-sectoral association we called that any future regulatory action must be grounded in thorough impact assessments and market analysis that consider the needs of all stakeholders. **Our views on spectrum, copper switch off, sustainability, resilience and security expressed in that [high-level reaction](#) remain valid.**

**In the current contribution we elaborate on these and other elements mentioned in Section B of the Call for evidence:**

**Simplification:** We support the goal of reducing red tape and the reporting obligations by 50%. In this regard, the merging into the DNA of various legislative instruments (e.g. EECC, BEREC Regulation, Radio Spectrum Policy Programme) is welcome and must be done with high-level of meticulousness to avoid confusion and complexity. In addition, other rules, for example, which mandate responding to data sharing requests to public sector bodies, or obligations to enhance cybersecurity and resilience; or consumer protection obligations stemming from horizontal rules must also be considered when it comes to reducing the administrative burden, and sector specific requirements to only apply if there is a clear evidence that the horizontal ones do not suffice.

**Access Regulation, Competition, Investment:** We welcome a balanced approach on the redesigning of access regulation, and we caution against the introduction of a pan-EU harmonised access product(s) with pre-defined technical characteristics, which is virtually impossible to cover all national or market-specific realities.

Noting that often a prerequisite for imposing access regulation is the identification of actor with a Significant Market Power (SMP), we would like to express that we support a balanced regulatory approach that ensures and promotes competition and provides incentives for investment in broadband infrastructure. Regulatory stability, clarity and a transparent, reliable process to determine when and how interventions



are needed, are key to fostering innovation and securing competition in Europe's digital infrastructure.

We support the shift towards technology-neutral and symmetric access rules. Additionally, longer license durations, easier renewals, and "use-it-or-lose-it" spectrum clauses could also encourage investment and predictability. We reaffirm our [earlier position](#) that policy measures must account for national specificities, while emphasizing that the EU's territorial scope extends overseas.

**Resilience:** Digital infrastructure is not only a commercial asset but a pillar of Europe's long-term competitiveness, industrial resilience, and strategic autonomy – particularly amid evolving geopolitical and technological challenges. National security concerns need to be aligned to not create barriers in the single market for electronic communications as this would hamper resilience, including life-saving services across the EU. Simplifying rules that would encourage competition and investments in redundancy (in terrestrial, submarine or satellite communication infrastructure), preparedness, resilience and security would be paramount in the remaining time of this legislature. Accordingly, a pragmatic, outcome-driven approach that emphasizes performance metrics like speed, latency, and reliability is imperative.

In conclusion, BusinessEurope reiterates its support for a Digital Networks Act (DNA) if it strengthens the competitiveness and resilience of the EU's digital infrastructure, while respecting the principles of proportionality, subsidiarity, market-driven development, and technological neutrality<sup>1</sup>.

A future-proof DNA should build on existing frameworks, streamline burdensome obligations, and foster innovation through investment incentives rather than prescriptive requirements. To succeed, it must enable cross-border scale, reduce fragmentation, and ensure that security and sustainability goals are met without compromising competition or operational flexibility.

We stand ready to support the shaping of a regulatory environment that empowers European industry and reinforces the Single Market in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

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<sup>1</sup> Rural and island regions often differ significantly in their digital infrastructure needs and constraints. Therefore, the Digital Networks Act should avoid implying that any single technology—such as fibre—is universally preferable and instead promote a technology-neutral approach that supports the most effective solutions in each context.