



# **Wifi4EU**

# **European Electronic Communications Code**

**Stefan Lechler**

**Lea Zuber**

**B1, Electronic Communications Policy, DG CONNECT  
European Consumer Consultative Group, Brussels  
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# The Connectivity package

## 3 strategic connectivity objectives for 2025

1. All main socio-economic drivers should have access to extremely high - gigabit – connectivity
2. All urban areas and major roads and railways should have uninterrupted 5G coverage and 5G should be commercially available in at least one major city in each EU Member State by 2020
3. All European households, rural or urban, should have access to connectivity offering a download speed of at least 100 Mbps

## To be met by 3 main new measures

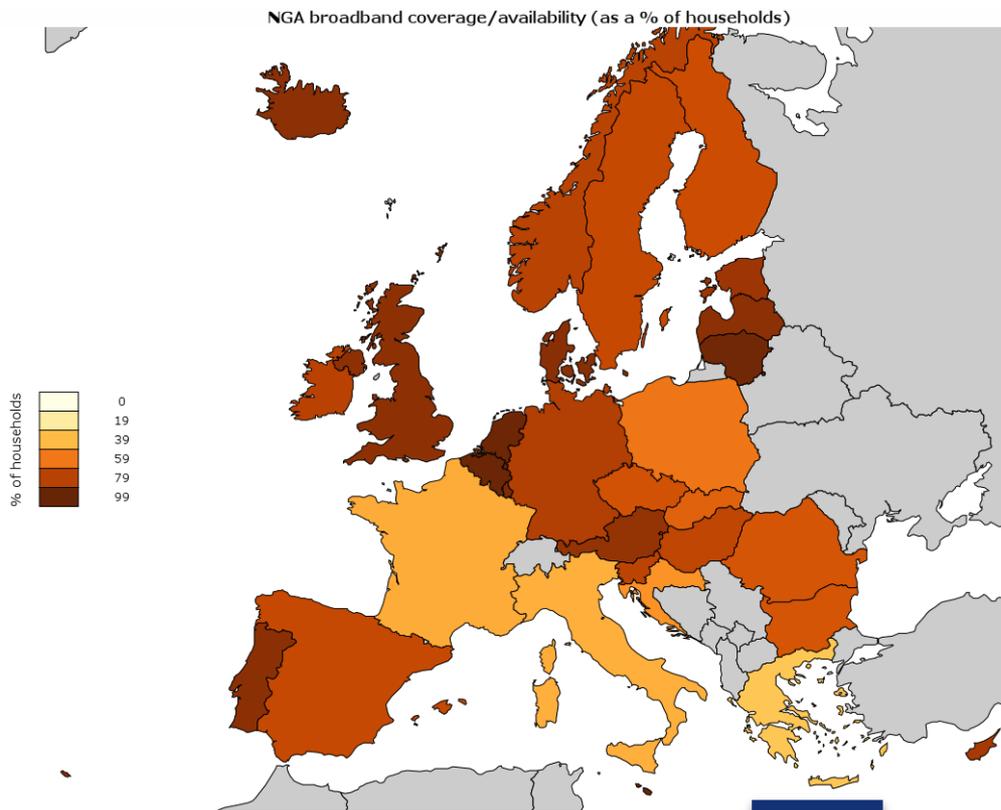
1. **WiFi4EU** (targeted voucher scheme)
2. **The 5G action plan** (to foster European industrial leadership)
3. **Review of the Telecoms Regulatory Framework: new European Electronic Communications Code and BEREC Reg. to help build future networks**

# Free Wi-Fi connections in the main centres of community life...

....part of the wider connectivity objective of the DSM

COMMISSION PRIORITY

## Digital Single Market



# Wi-Fi4EU – a simple and efficient voucher scheme

EU flagship initiative



Logo and brand made in EU



Financed from EU budget for local authorities



# Substantial impact on the society



**Investing EUR 120 million  
in the Wi-Fi4EU voucher  
scheme...**



**...connecting 6.000-8.000  
communities...**



**...making 40-50 million  
Wi-Fi connections per day**

# Shared involvement in the project



## Vouchers

- Cover infrastructure costs



## Communities

- Cover payments to the operator



## Regulatory framework

- Removes legal obstacles to deployment and share WiFi access by local communities.

# Potential for a success story



- **Simple, non-bureaucratic** system, delivered through **on-line vouchers** allocated on a “**first come, first served**” basis



- **Fast deployment**
- **Agile audit**
- **Real-time monitoring**

## EECC: Review of the scope of regulation

- On 14 September the Commission adopted **the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC)** proposal, a review of the 2009 electronic communications framework
- Traditional telco services (*e.g. voice calls and SMS*) fall into the current scope of ECS definition but today end-users consider over-the-top (OTT) services (*e.g. Voice over IP and messaging*) as functionally equivalent
- Re-definition of **'electronic communications service' (ECS)** is required
- EECC proposal also **clarifies** that providers of OTT services using numbering resources are subject to certain sector-specific regulatory requirements

## New ECS definition

1. **Internet access services (IAS)** (Art. 2(2) 2015/2120/EC)
2. **Interpersonal communications services (ICS)**
  - **Number-based ICS** (e.g. "traditional" telephony and SMS, VoIP where users are assigned a "traditional" phone number and/or can call such a number)
  - **Number-independent ICS** (e.g. standard VoIP and messaging services)
3. Services consisting wholly or mainly in the **conveyance of signals**, such as transmission services used for M2M and broadcasting signals

## Adaptation of sector specific rules

**Simplification and consistency**

**Modernisation and improvement**

**Harmonisation**

## Simplification and consistency

- Provisions on information requirements for contracts updated and streamlined; apply to consumers, micro and small enterprises:
  - Information requirements for contracts refer to Art. 5 and 6 CRD
  - Sector-specific dispute resolution (may be extended by MS to other end-users, in particular micro and small enterprises) refers to procedural rules of ADR Directive
- Strengthened provision on price and quality comparison tools:
  - Access to independent comparison tools to compare and evaluate prices and quality of service (in consistency with the criteria set out in the payment accounts directive).

## Modernisation and improvement

- Better readability of contracts thanks to summary template
- New provision for usage monitoring by end-users
- Facilitated termination of automatically prolonged contracts
- Enhanced rules for switching between providers of IAS
- Improved rules on number portability
- Switching rules for bundles to avoid lock-in effects

## Harmonisation

- Full harmonization of the level of end-user protection regarding those areas covered by the Directive
- Exemption for maximum duration of initial commitment period
  - MS may set limits shorter than 24 months



**Thank you for your  
attention!**