

Very High Capacity and 5G Networks

From the EU code to the EU market

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Investment for VHCNs

An introduction

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REGULATORY OBJECTIVES

Art 3 EECC: «promote connectivity and access to, and take-up of, very high capacity networks, including fixed, mobile and wireless networks, by all citizens and businesses of the Union

EVOLUTION:

- promotion of investments has always been, in different ways, a regulatory action within the Electronic communications framework
- it is an evolution of the balance between existing objectives, namely between competition promotion and investments promotion
- the new Code's provisions (access regulation) aiming to facilitate VHCNs investments receives or modifies regulatory practices and models somehow already adopted



ACCESS REGULATION: FROM THE LADDER OF INVESTEMENTS....

ACESS REGULATION:

- Keystone of the liberalization of telecoms markets in Europe: empirical evidence of access-based competition positive effects
- Concerns (theory) about disincentives that access obligations can cause to investments in new infrastructures: "profitability effect" and "replacement effect"

LADDER OF INVESTMENTS:

- transitory "entry assistance" to new entrants, while giving them incentives for to build their own network in the medium / long-term (from SBC to FBC) and thus neutralising the replacement effect
- Complementarity between SBC and FBC, i.e. reconciling and balancing short-term competition benefit (static efficiency) with long-term investment benefits (dynamic efficiency)



... TO THE CODE CONTEXT

 NOT COMPLETELY EFFECTIVE: Ladder of Investments has proved to be effective only on the "short ladder" (pushing competitors to the LLU /SLU rungs)

NGANs / VHCNs:

- implying paramount investments (increasing tension /decreasing complementarity between objectives)
- which are much more geographically differentiated than before (areas where infrastructure competition is not sustainable/desirable)
- o public policy debate started progressively focusing on industrial policy targets (next to or sometimes even instead of regulation of market failures)
- NO LONGER COMPREHENSIVE: downstream competition (SBC vs FBC) is no longer covering all the relevant dimensions in the market, as upstream competition vs upstream cooperation (wholesale-only operators and cooperation for investments)



THE NEW EECC PROVISIONS TO FACILITATE VHCNs INVESTEMENTS

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WHAT IS THE NEW BALANCE BETWEEN INVESTEMENTS AND COMPETITION?

Harald Gruber

Head of Digital Infrastructure Division, European Investment Bank

Maarit Palovirta

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