



# Fostering the deployment of NGN in the context of the EU telecoms review

## The French perspective

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## Overview

- The deployment of NGNs : a new challenge that requires new solutions
- EU Framework review : a missed opportunity ?
- Fostering the deployment of NGNs in France
- The risk of a digital divide
- Priorities of the French Presidency in the field of NGNs

## The deployment of NGNs : a new challenge (1)

- The deployment of NGNs : a great challenge in terms of investments and risk (in particular FFTH)
  - Considerable returns to our economies and to consumers...
  - ... and a fantastic opportunity to achieve infrastructure-based competition
- ⇒ Policy-makers have a major role to play in fostering these massive investments

## The deployment of NGNs : a new challenge (2)

- New solutions are required : fiber is not a legacy network !
  - However, regulatory intervention is necessary :
    - potential discrimination issues (access to ducts)
    - cases where the deployment of parallel networks is either economically unviable or even undesirable (in-building cabling)
- ⇒ A subtle balance has to be struck by the regulation between providing adequate incentives to invest and ensuring effective competition

## The Review : a missed opportunity ? (1)

- Some stakeholders regret that the EU Framework review was not the opportunity of a more ambitious forward-looking approach
- However, the principles of the current framework still seem valid :
  - Twofold objective of preventing distortion in competition as well as encouraging efficient investment
  - flexibility in the implementation

## The review : a missed opportunity ? (2)

- Existing access obligations could be used cautiously when necessary (with technology neutrality)
- Symmetrical obligations should be strengthened to allow sharing of non-active network elements, e.g. for in-building wiring
- The introduction of functional separation :  
a remedy from the past vs. the single way to avoid irrational duplication of networks ?

## Policy-making in the context of the Review (3)

- Beyond the Framework Review, policy-makers should reflect on the best way to implement the regulation :
  - Through sharing of best practices between Member States
  - At the Community level, through the future Recommendation on NGA

Since November 2006, the high speed broadband plan materializes in France a strong commitment towards the deployment of optical fiber;

With 4 main objectives:

- 1. Facilitate and lower the costs of the internal cabling of buildings**
  - Legislative measure in the project PLME (economy modernization law)
  
- 2. Lower civil works costs and entry barriers**
  - Foster existing infrastructures sharing and civil works

### 3. High speed access for all

- Foster an ambitious growth of bit rates help
- complementary technologies (cf. digital dividend) and business models (market only, public-private partnership, delegation of public service, etc.) ;
- creation of a comity for the digital coverage of the territory

### 4. Reinforce R&D and the development of usages

- Support cluster's R&D projects and the implementation of usage oriented large scale experimentation platforms

## But, a risk of digital divide

- Broadband is a standard mode of connectivity; it is more and more considered as a utility like water or electricity
  - In parallel, high speed broadband will deepen the gap between dense and dynamic regions and rural and isolated areas.
  - Higher risk of exclusion of the information society
- ⇒ **Potential gap in very high speed justify high level discussion at the Council on how to ensure at least a universal access to broadband**
- However, an inclusion of broadband in the USD could not be envisaged without a review of the concept and mechanism

## Perspective of the French presidency

- During the i-2010 conference of the 8th and 9th of September in Paris:
  - International benchmark of legislative measures for the deployment of fixed NGN
  - Forward-looking discussion on the conditions for the emergence of mobile high speed broadband
- At the Council, one of the priorities of the French presidency will be the adoption of conclusions on:
  - NGN and Internet of the future
  - How to ensure a universal access for broadband



**Thank you for your attention**

