PRESS RELEASE

Digital Networks Act: ecta welcomes ITRE Rapporteur's ambition but calls for stronger safeguards for competition.

Competition in telecoms is a prerequisite for Europe's global competitiveness. National regulators must retain the full range of tools needed to address market power.

Brussels, 28 October 2026: ecta, the european competitive telecommunications association welcomes the ambition expressed in the draft report on the Digital Networks Act (DNA) to strengthen Europe's global competitiveness, as presented by MEP Michał Kobosko, Rapporteur of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).

ecta strongly welcomes the restoration of effective competition as a stand-alone objective, the preservation of the EU's proven ex ante regulatory framework for operators with Significant Market Power (SMP), and the Rapporteur's amendment concerning connection to electricity grids.

> *"We welcome Rapporteur Michał Kobosko's recognition that effective competition must be a stand-alone objective of the Digital Networks Act.* ***Competition in telecoms is not merely a policy objective, but a prerequisite for Europe's global competitiveness.*** *It is therefore essential that national regulators retain the freedom to address Significant Market Power, by means of imposing and combining effective access and price control remedies, including cost-oriented access to civil engineering. Europe needs a regulatory framework that empowers competition, not one that allows dominant operators to shape the rules through their own commitments."*
>
> **Luc Hindryckx | Director General,** ecta

To ensure that the Digital Networks Act effectively safeguards competition, ecta calls for the following changes to the Rapporteur's draft report:

The SMP framework must remain effective in practice

The DNA must not introduce a hierarchy of remedies that restricts the ability of national regulatory authorities (NRAs) to combine access obligations with the price controls necessary to make them effective. Access regulation without effective price regulation is insufficient to ensure competition in practice. NRAs must therefore retain the power to impose price controls, including cost orientation and cost-accounting obligations, for all types of interconnection and access remedies, including those imposed under Article 78 and, where justified, Article 84. The effectiveness of these remedies also depends on appropriate technical and operational access conditions, which NRAs must be able to specify and enforce.

National regulatory authorities must retain their full toolbox of remedies and the discretion to select and combine those best suited to addressing competition problems in their respective markets.

Commercial agreements and commitments offered by SMP operators must not be prioritised over effective regulatory intervention unless they demonstrably and sustainably

The European Competitive Telecommunications Association AISBL
Rue de Trèves 49-51, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
T + 32 (0) 2 290 01 00
E info@ectaportal.com **W** www.ectaportal.com
Registered in Belgium Company No.0679.888.440; RPM Brussels

address the competition concerns identified. Allowing dominant operators to shape the regulatory process through their own commitments also risks increasing regulatory fragmentation rather than advancing the single market.

Symmetric access obligations must remain complementary to asymmetric SMP regulation and must not limit the remedies available to national regulators.

Cost-oriented access to civil engineering is essential

Access to civil engineering is to fixed operators what spectrum is to mobile operators: a prerequisite for network deployment, investment and competition. Access must therefore be guaranteed on **cost-oriented, transparent and non-discriminatory terms**.

Business markets deserve greater attention

Business connectivity markets remain highly concentrated across Member States and require greater regulatory attention to improve their contestability.

The DNA should explicitly require national regulatory authorities to assess whether business connectivity services constitute distinct relevant markets from mass-market services. **Where such differences are identified, separate relevant markets must be defined**, allowing regulatory remedies to be tailored to the specific competition problems affecting business customers.

Competition is the foundation of a competitive Europe

ecta welcomes the Rapporteur's ambition and looks forward to contributing constructively to the legislative process. Achieving the DNA's objectives requires an effective regulatory framework that continues to promote market entry, investment, innovation and sustainable competition.

Europe's global competitiveness depends on a genuinely competitive and diverse connectivity ecosystem.

For ecta's more detailed analysis, please click here.

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For further information on the contents of this press release and ecta*'s positions, please contact:*
Luc Hindryckx, Director General, +32 472 35 06 54

ecta, the european competitive telecommunications association (www.ectaportal.com), represents those alternative operators who, relying on the pro-competitive EU legal framework that has created a free market for electronic communications, have helped overcome national monopolies to give EU citizens, businesses and public administrations quality and choice at affordable prices. ecta represents at large those operators who are driving the development of an accessible Gigabit society, who represent significant investments in fixed, mobile and fixed wireless access networks that qualify as Gigabit Very Networks and who demonstrate unique innovation capabilities.