

Mrs. Neelie Kroes

European Commissioner
for the Digital Agenda

European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
Bruxelles

Brussels, June 22nd, 2010

Re: Relevance of geographic dimension for the development of electronic communications market

Dear Commissioner Kroes,

I am writing to your attention to highlight some elements that I believe important for the development of the European electronic communications markets.

The EU 2020 Strategy has acknowledged that the ICT sector plays a decisive role in the re-launch of the EU economy. To this extent, the Digital Agenda that you have recently presented, and that has joined support of the EU telecom Council, constitutes a key set of strategic objectives and policy actions to guide a sound development of ICT market and to provide EU citizens with innovative and advanced digital services.

The success of the Digital Agenda will depend, to a large extent, to the implementation actions that Member States will carry out to allow for a rapid deployment of infrastructures. In this respect, I believe that in order to achieve the objectives set out by the European Commission in terms of infrastructures growth, more attention should be dedicated to regional dimension of markets.

As a matter of fact, once the policy goals defined, regulatory intervention at member states' level should take into consideration the regional characteristics of market in order to be better tailored to reach the objectives defined at EU level: an evaluation based on regional / local dimension in terms of market development, infrastructures' deployment, demand of services and need for investments.

Against this background, I think that the European policy guidance should be defined in such a way to recognize that market control should follow the principle of granting a higher degree of flexibility, specifically when the geographic features of a market require less intrusive market regulation, accordingly with the principle of

proportionality, (therefore allowing for an implementation of rules at local, and not national, basis).

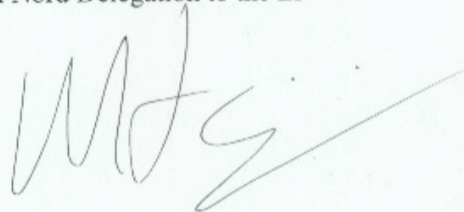
Moreover, for the objective of a fast development of high speed broadband networks, the regional dimension and the role of regional authorities should also be supported and encouraged by European policies: regional / local authorities play a very important role in terms of their competences over the physical deployment of civil infrastructures and of cabling ducts. A policy indication should therefore also come from the EU Commission in terms of facilitating the sharing of civil works that could also provide symmetric access to regional infrastructures, in order to reduce cabling costs that are necessary for next generation broadband roll-out.

I hope that you will share these considerations with me and you will take them into account in the future actions that the European commission will take within the objectives of the Digital Agenda.

Best Regards,

Matteo Salvini

Head of the Lega Nord Delegation to the EP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.