



Czech Telecommunication Office

July 2023

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## Telegraphically

### CTU information leaflets

All the Office's current information leaflets are now available in a well-organized manner [at one place](#). These are leaflets covering CTU tools such as the comparison tool or VPortal, as well as leaflets on consumer topics (marketing calls, colour lines, measurement and claims about speed of internet access, objections to claim settlement, etc.). Basic information can be found in the leaflets 'CTU in a Nutshell' (ČTÚ v kostce) and 'Telecommunication Academy' (Telekomunikační akademie).

#### The tricks of the telephone scammers

Unfortunately, we continue to see fraudulent practices that lure money from consumers through manipulative phone calls, emails or SMS text messages. Most often, fraudsters impersonate delivery companies or banks with which the contacted person has an account. A well-structured article on the practices of these scammers with information on how to defend yourself and practical advice on how to detect these practices was published by dTest magazine in July.

#### Spectrum management strategy

The Czech Telecommunication Office invites experts and the wider public to actively participate in the process of updating the Radio Spectrum Management Strategy, a document that is intended to be the next step towards efficient and sustainable utilisation of the radio spectrum for the current and future needs of the Czech Republic. We welcome proposals for specific frequency bands and areas of expertise as well as more general suggestions until 31 August 2023. More information can be found on the [CTU website](#).

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## The most common measured speed of fixed internet is between 30-100 Mbps, the share of higher speeds is increasing

For the purpose of monitoring the speed and quality of data services in mobile and fixed networks, the Czech Telecommunication Office operates the Measurement system of electronic communications, an integral part of which is the [NetTest](#) measurement tool, which serves (not only) the general public to check the quality of the provided Internet access service. However, it also provides CTU with statistical tools that, thanks to the hundreds of thousands of measurements taken, make it possible to analyse the results and assess the performance of the Internet access service.

The NetTest tool provides the general public with the opportunity not only to test the quality of their Internet connection once or repeatedly, but also to carry out a certified measurement process the use of which is practical especially in the case that the actually achieved speed in the download or upload direction of the service provided does not correspond to the contractually specified speeds.

**581,670**

is the number of measurements made with NetTest in 2023. Of these, 8,563 is the number of so-called certified measurements made.

### How does the service performance decrease during the day?

An analysis of the change in average measured speed as a function of the time of day showed a variation in values (or, in other words, a drop in the performance of the Internet access service at a fixed location) of around 40% and well below 40% in the last two quarters under review (36.66% in the first quarter of 2023). The speed usually drops the most between eight and ten o'clock in the evening. This variation of values, when compared with the definition of the normally available speed for Internet access services provided at a fixed location, is in accordance with the requirement laid down by [VOS1](#) with effect from 1 January 2021, namely that the normally available speed, on which large discrepancies are based, should be at least 60% of the advertised speed.

Another important finding is the increase in the average measured speed of Internet access services provided at a fixed location in 1Q/2023 and subsequently also in 2Q/2023, where the average speed in the download direction reached 83.35 Mbps and 88.36 Mbps, respectively, which indicates the ever-increasing quality of the Internet access services provided at a fixed location in the Czech Republic. In forecasting the development of average speed (download) in the future, we can expect a tendency towards an increase in the quality of the services provided, also in view of the 2022 subsidy programme for the deployment of very high capacity networks (VHCN), which will enable end users to have reliable Internet connections with speeds of at least 1000 Mbps in the download direction and 200 Mbps in the upload direction, with a special focus on rural areas where there is little commercial incentive to deploy such networks.

### The percentage of higher speeds is growing

The 30 to 100 Mbps speed category is currently the category of the highest percentage of the measured results. In 4Q/2022 and 1Q/2023, there was also a slight increase in service performance in the highest categories of 100-300 Mbps and 300-1000 Mbps. This trend of change can also be described as undoubtedly an increase in the quality of Internet access services provided at a fixed location in the Czech Republic.

#### INTERNET IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Number of Internet access service providers: 1,823

The most frequently represented speed category in the measurements: 30–100 Mbps

Number of users of mobile data services: 10,773,363

Number of Internet connections at a fixed location: 4,013,628

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## Electronic data collection: Newly published forms in the ESD system

At the beginning of 3 July 2023, CTU published a half-year form, ART231 – **Services provided in electronic communications** in the Electronic Data Collection system (ESD), available at <https://monitoringtrhu.ctu.cz>, for undertakings in electronic communications. This form is used to collect data mainly for relevant market analyses, international reporting, and the national statistical service. A template of this form can be found on the [CTU website](#), and its completion and submission is only possible in the Electronic Data Collection System via a web browser. The deadline for completing and submitting the form is 31 August 2023.

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## Changes to eligibility for discounted prices for calls and internet access service

**From 1 July 2023, changes came into force regarding the conditions for the provision of special prices for people with special social needs. The amendments introduce a change in the group of people entitled to a price discount of CZK 200 per calendar month for electronic communications services. Low-income people are entitled to this benefit on the basis of a certificate of subsistence allowance issued by the offices of the Employment Bureau.**

An amendment to the [Electronic Communications Act](#) and an amendment to [Government Order No. 500/2021 Coll.](#), on the conditions of the provision of special prices for voice communication services and internet access services to persons with special social needs came into effect on 1 July 2023.

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## Checked by CTU in June...

...compliance with the conditions of General Authorisation No. [VO-R/12/11.2021-11](#) for the use of radio frequencies and for the operation of equipment for broadband data transmission in the 2.4 GHz - 71 GHz band

CTU completed 21 inspections in June. Defects were identified in 17 cases, consisting mainly in harmful interference with radiocommunication service stations on a primary basis and use of indoor frequencies outside a building, which were resolved by a call to rectify the identified deficiencies and which will subsequently be addressed in administrative proceedings.

... the use of radio frequencies without authorisation

Based on radio monitoring, CTU carried out a total of 21 inspections focused on the use of frequencies without authorisation (including frequencies for the use of which an individual authorisation cannot be issued). In 16 cases, the use of frequencies without authorisation was detected, mainly by the operation of mobile service stations and broadband data transmission devices (RLAN). The cases were referred to administrative proceedings.

... compliance with the conditions of an individual authorisation for the use of radio frequencies

5 inspections were carried out and in 4 cases violations of the conditions of the individual authorisation for the operation of radio transmitters in the VHF band were found. The operators of the equipment were issued notices to remedy the deficiencies and the cases were referred to administrative proceedings.

... sources of interference with the operation of electronic communications equipment and networks, the provision of electronic communications services or the operation of radiocommunications services

In June, CTU closed 10 cases of interference to 5G, LTE and GSM public mobile communication networks, 6 cases of interference to radio and satellite reception, 8 cases of interference to meteorological radar, and two cases of interference to amateur service. The other eleven interference investigations involved primarily short-range devices and broadband data transmission equipment (RLAN). In cases where the interference was confirmed and the source of the interference was traced, the operators of the interference sources were ordered to eliminate them.

#### [... sources of interference with TV signal reception](#)

In June, CTU closed a total of 138 cases of TV signal reception interference. The investigation of complaints about poor TV reception revealed that in 74 cases the defect was in the viewer's equipment (most often a technical fault of the receiving antenna or lead-in), in 21 cases the interference stopped or occurred sporadically, in 13 cases the complainant cancelled the interference complaint during the investigation. In 7 cases, the reception problem was caused by poor signal quality at the reception location. In 23 cases, a source of interference was detected, and in 22 cases the source of interference was identified as a base station of a mobile operator, see below.

#### [... pilot operation of LTE base stations in the 800 MHz band](#)

As of 30 June 2023, 371 base stations were in pilot operation, and 17,168 stations were in permanent operation. In June, an LTE base station was not identified as a source of TV signal reception interference.

#### [... pilot operation of 5G/LTE base stations in the 700 MHz band](#)

As of 30 June 2023, 1,558 base stations were in pilot operation, and 4,933 stations were in permanent operation. In June, a 5G/LTE base station was identified as a source of TV signal interference in 22 cases. In all cases, the mobile network operators eliminated the interference at their own cost based on a CTU's decision. In June, CTU sent a letter via data mailbox to 16 municipalities in whose region the pilot operation of 5G base stations was launched, with information on how to proceed in the event of TV signal reception interference.

2,313

the number of decisions issued in June on the matter, of which 2,308 decisions concerned the dispute over payment (payment of the price for services).

1,758

the number of administrative proceedings initiated in June concerning subscriber disputes between the person carrying out the communication activity and the subscriber. These are the disputes over payments and objections to a claim settlement about the billing of the price or the provided publicly available electronic communications service.

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## Excessive use of regulated roaming may be subject to charges

In connection with the introduction of the basic roaming rules in the May [Monitoring Report](#), and in the [educational video](#), the Telecommunication Academy draws the attention of CTU to another specificity of the use of electronic communications services abroad. In this article we would like to draw your attention to the so-called fair use policy, which is applied in the context of the "roam like at home" principle, i.e. charging for electronic communications services in EU countries under domestic conditions.

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## Legislative changes

### SPECIAL PRICES, MALICIOUS CALLS, TERRESTRIAL DIGITAL RADIO BROADCASTING AND CONSTRUCTION COORDINATION AND ACCELERATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION

On 30 June 2023, Act No. [202/2023 Coll.](#) amending Act [No. 127/2005 Coll.](#), on Electronic Communications and on amendment to certain related acts (Electronic Communications Act), as amended, Act [No. 231/2001 Coll.](#), on Radio and Television Broadcasting and on amendment to other acts, as amended, and other related acts was published in [Volume 97 of the Collection of Laws](#).

The original scope of the amendment's focus on the area of universal service regulation (the issue of so-called special prices - [Section 38 universal services](#)) was designed to be minimalistic, as the intention was to discuss the proposal in the first reading, i.e. in the accelerated legislative procedure. As this accelerated discussion did not take place, the bill was subsequently extended by way of amendments to include changes also in other areas. Specifically, the Act introduces:

measures to address malicious communication to emergency numbers ([Section 33 of the Electronic Communications Act](#)),

a change in the group of persons eligible for special prices within the universal service and related changes ([Section 38 et seq. of the Electronic Communications Act](#), see article on page 3 for details of this change),

legislative and technical amendments to the Electronic Communications Act,

changes relating to the development of terrestrial digital radio broadcasting (amendment to [Act No. 231/2001 Coll.](#), on Radio and Television Broadcasting and on amendment to other acts, as amended),

streamlining the processes for the coordination of infrastructure construction (amendment to Act [No. 194/2017 Coll.](#), on Measures to Reduce the Costs of Deploying High-speed Electronic Communications Networks and on the amendment to some other acts, as amended),

other measures to accelerate the construction of infrastructure (amendment to Act [No. 416/2009 Coll.](#), on accelerating the deployment of transport, water and energy infrastructure and electronic communication infrastructure (Line Act), as amended, amendment to Act [No. 200/1994 Coll.](#), on Surveying and Mapping and on amendments to some acts related to its introduction, as amended).

This Act came into effect on the first day of the calendar month following its publication, i.e. on 1 July 2023, except for the provisions of Articles V to VIII, which shall come into effect on 1 January 2026.

## AMENDMENT TO THE BUILDING ACT

Act [No. 152/2023 Coll.](#), amending Act [No. 283/2021 Coll., the Building act](#), as amended by Act [No. 195/2022 Coll.](#), and some other related acts was published in [Volume 74 of the Collection of Laws](#) on 5 June 2023.

This Act came into effect on 1 July 2023.

## THE OBLIGATION TO SET UP AND SECURE INTERFACES FOR THE CONNECTION OF DETECTION TOOLS

Decree [No. 196/2023 Coll.](#), on the method of determining the amount of costs effectively incurred in setting up and securing the interface for the connection of the detection tool, the procedure for claiming these costs and the method of their reimbursement, was published in [Volume 95 of the Collection of Laws](#) on 23 June 2023.

This Decree came into effect on 1 July 2023.

## DEFINITION OF THE GROUP OF PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL PRICES

Government Order [No. 203/2023 Coll.](#), amending Government Order No. [500/2021 Coll.](#), on the conditions of the provision of special prices for voice communication services and internet access services to persons with special social needs, was published in [Volume 97 of the Collection of Laws](#) on 30 June 2023.

This Government Order shall come into effect on the first day of the calendar month following its publication, i.e. on 1 July 2023. The impact of this Government Order is discussed in more detail in a separate article on page 3.

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## Rough sketches of 6G are being prepared, frequency bands still unknown

A workshop on 6G was held in Copenhagen on 29 and 30 June 2023, organised by the European Communications Office (CEPT/ECO). At this event, experts from various industries came together to discuss trends, user models, developing a vision for future standardization, spectrum needs, technology issues and other areas of the new technology for mobile communications, 6G. The future of communications envisages support for virtual and augmented reality, the use of AI and predictive algorithms to optimize services and network traffic. There is a consensus that 6G will operate in a shared spectrum environment and may become part of a platform that integrates mobile networks, Wi-Fi, satellite networks and cable networks. Vertical sectors such as healthcare, transport, industry, urban infrastructure and others will play an important role using wireless telecommunication technologies. Successful deployment of new mobile generations requires economies of scale and realistic investment models. However, some experts point out that interest in millimetre waves bands for these communications has been relatively limited to date and question whether new spectrum is really needed for 6G. On the contrary, most opinions confirm the success of 4G/5G and that 5G is still on the rise and will be sufficient for most applications, including demanding ones, for a long time.

## **CEPT/ECC COMMITTEE DISCUSSED AIRCRAFT RADIO ALTIMETERS, UPPER-6 GHz AND IMPROVING RECEIVER RESILIENCE**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) was held on 4-7 July 2023. On the agenda there was the adoption of new and revised ECC harmonisation documents and CEPT reports in accordance with the mandate of the European Commission. The draft revised ECC Decision on radio-determination in the 116-260 GHz band and the CEPT Report on Radiodetermination Applications in this band were presented during the meeting. Important outcomes include the adoption of the ECC Recommendation on planning and cross-border coordination of networks in the 26 GHz band. Further progress was also discussed on the compatibility of applications in the upper 6 GHz band in terms of Wi-Fi and mobile network operation, and on ensuring reliable operation of aircraft radio altimeters while developing 4G and 5G in the nearby 3.4 to 3.8 GHz band. The meeting also focused on the regulation of radio receiver parameters with respect to their resilience and the importance of this step for sharing and efficient use of frequency bands in the face of increasing demands for access to radio spectrum.

## **RADIO SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT**

### **DIGITAL RADIO BROADCASTING**

On 28 June, CTU held another round table, this time to present the settlement of comments received on the draft invitation to tender for granting of the rights to use radio frequencies to provide electronic communications networks in the 174-230 MHz band (DAB). Participants were given an outline of the expected timetable leading up to the launch and completion of the auction in 2023. A day later, CTU published [the results of a public consultation](#) on this draft invitation to tender.

### **GENERAL AUTHORIZATIONS**

On 26 June, CTU launched a [public consultation](#) on the draft General Authorisation No. VO-R/24/xx.2023-y for the operation of equipment of infrastructure for transmitting radio signals inside tunnels, buildings and trains. The reason for issuing this updated general authorisation is due to changes in the technical parameters of the stations for train carriage coverage in order to improve coverage inside the carriages and to better prevent interference. Comments on the proposal can be submitted until 26 July.

### **NATO MEETING ON ACCESS TO FREQUENCIES**

A joint meeting of NATO military and civilian experts on frequency management took place in Brussels on 21 and 22 June. The meeting adopted NATO's position on the agenda items of the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference. This position will be subsequently submitted to the North Atlantic Council for discussion. In response to the existing geopolitical situation in Europe, the need to supplement the common harmonised NATO frequency table with bands that would, if necessary and under clearly defined conditions, extend adequate access of the forces to the radio spectrum was also discussed.

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## MARKET ANALYSES

Market No. 1 - wholesale local access provided at a fixed location, and Market No. 3b - wholesale central access provided at a fixed location for mass-market products

On 1 June 2023, CTU launched the notification of the draft analyses of relevant markets No. 1 – Wholesale local access provided at a fixed location, and No. 3b – Wholesale central access provided at a fixed location for mass-market products to the European Commission and received its decision on 3 July 2023. In the decision, the Commission made four comments on the analyses presented. One of them was aimed at market delineation and another at the ownership affiliation between CETIN a.s. and O2 Czech Republic a.s. In this context, the Commission requested that CTU closely monitor technological developments in the market and the competitive behaviour of CETIN a.s. and O2 Czech Republic a.s. during this regulatory period. The third comment focused on the length of the period for the public consultation and the last one focused on the possible impact of the merger under consideration between Nej.cz s.r.o. and CETIN a.s. on the current conclusions. The Commission requested that CTU review the market and regulatory measures in due course, if necessary, in the case of the approved merger. After taking into account the Commission's comments, the CTU Council decided to issue the analyses in question.

Draft Measure of General Nature determining the relevant markets in electronic communications (Measure of General Nature No. 1)

On 27 June 2023, following a public consultation lasting until 16 June 2023, in which no comments were received by the Office, the CTU Council discussed and approved the referral of the draft amendment to Measure of General Nature (OOP) No. 1 setting out the (national) list of relevant markets designated for ex ante regulation to the Office for the Protection of Competition for its opinion. On 25 July 2023, the CTU Council approved the final version of OOP No. 1, which will subsequently be published in the Telecommunications Bulletin.

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## Price regulation: public consultation on methodologies

Methodology for setting prices for access to fibre infrastructure

On 30 June 2023, CTU launched a public consultation at the discussion site on a draft model for setting wholesale prices for access to fibre infrastructure, including an accompanying methodology. The aim of the model and the accompanying methodology is to specify in more detail the procedure for calculating the prices associated with the use of the fibre access network in the infrastructure sharing mode at the wholesale level for potential negotiations between the infrastructure owner and a potential tenant and, in particular, to enable the stakeholders to use this methodology as a guide in commercial negotiations on the terms and conditions of contracts for access to the fibre infrastructure. Comments on the proposal can be submitted until the end of August 2023.

Methodologies for assessing the cost orientation of prices and affordability of universal postal services

On 30 June 2023, CTU launched public consultations on draft methodologies for assessing the cost orientation of prices and affordability of universal postal services. The Office proceeded to propose adjustments to the existing methodologies in view of the changing environment on the postal services market, i.e. in particular the declining quantities of postal items and the associated increase in unit costs. The aim of both methodologies is to strengthen the predictability of the Office's actions in relation to the assessment of prices for universal postal services and to enable the postal licence holder

itself to take into account all relevant economic phenomena (inflation, cost growth) in its pricing, including the possibility to respond more flexibly to changes in consumer behaviour and preferences. Comments on the proposal can be submitted until the end of August 2023.

## Methodology for the breakdown and allocation of costs and revenues and the structure of the information to be reported

On July 25, CTU [launched](#) on the discussion site a public consultation on the draft version of Measure of General Nature No. OOP/4/XX.2023-Y amending Measure of General Nature No. OOP/4/09.2014-6 laying down the methodology for the breakdown and allocation of costs and revenues and determining the structure of the information to be reported, as amended by Measure of General Nature No. OOP/4/12.2015-7, OOP/4/02.2019-2, OOP/4/10.2021-10 and OOP/4/10.2022-20. With this measure, CTU updates the value of the WACC indicator. The new WACC value was determined based on the requirements laid down by the [Commission Notice](#) on the calculation of the cost of capital for legacy infrastructure in the context of the Commission's review of national notifications in the EU electronic communications sector. Comments on the proposal can be submitted within 1 month of the start of the public consultation.

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## Telecommunications regulation in the EU

### European Commission

The European Commission welcomes the [Joint Declaration](#) from EU (Deutsche Telekom Group, Orange Group a Telefónica Group) and Moldovan (Moldocell, Moldtelecom and Orange Moldova) telecom operators on lowering roaming tariffs from 1 January 2024. It reflects the shared goal to ensure a long-term roaming arrangement and to bring the Republic of Moldova into the EU roaming area.

On 15 June, EU Member States, with the support of the European Commission and the EU Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), published a second [progress report](#) on the implementation of the [EU Toolbox on 5G cybersecurity](#). The report also addresses some of the recommendations of the [European Court of Auditors' Special Report](#) of January 2022. In complement to the progress report, the Commission today adopted a Communication on the implementation of the toolbox by Member States and in the EU's own corporate communications and funding activities.

On 21 June, the European Commission launched a [public consultation](#) on the Digital Services Act (DSA) Transparency Database, which will run until 17 July. Article 24(5) of the DSA establishes that the Commission must set up and maintain a database of statements from online platforms concerning reasons for removal of information and other content moderation decisions. Once the database is created, platforms will be asked to submit their statements without undue delay after taking a decision, allowing for almost real-time updates. The database will be public and provides insights into the fight against illegal content online. The consultation is composed of a set of questions and software code, which implements a draft version of this database.

The Commission welcomes the political agreement reached on 28 June between the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, on the European [Data Act](#), proposed by the Commission in February 2022. The political agreement reached by the European Parliament and the Council is now subject to formal approval by the two co-legislators. Once adopted, the Data Act will enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the Official Journal and will become applicable 20 months after the entry into force.

## Official Journal of the EU

On 9 June, [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1127](#) of 2 March supplementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Digital Services Act – DSA) with the detailed methodologies and procedures regarding the supervisory fees charged by the Commission on providers of very large online platforms and very large online search engines was published. This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the EU and is binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

On 22 June, [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1201](#) of 21 June 2023, on detailed arrangements for the conduct of certain proceedings by the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council (DSA) was published. This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

On 3 July, [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2023/1353](#) of 30 June 2023, setting out key performance indicators to measure the progress towards the digital targets established by Article 4(1) of [Decision \(EU\) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) (Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030) was published. This Decision shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

## Council of the EU

On 1 July, [Spain](#) took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU. Spain has set the following [priorities](#) in its [programme](#): reindustrialise the EU and ensure its open strategic autonomy, advance in the green transition and the environmental adaptation.

## BEREC

On 28 June, [Agency for Support for BEREC](#) (BEREC Office) published an [announcement](#) on vacancy for the function of Director. The director is responsible for heading of BEREC Office. The post is available from 1 April 2024.

## ERGP

On 23 June, the first Plenary meeting for 2023 of [European Regulators Group for Postal Services](#) (ERGP) took place in Larnaca (Cyprus). On 22 June, prior to the Plenary meeting, the ERGP held an internal Workshop on “Megatrends and the future postal regulatory framework”. The results feed into the forward-looking study that the European Commission is preparing after Council Decision [\(EU\) 2022/1327](#) of 26 July 2022.

The ERGP Plenary adopted the following documents for publication:

[ERGP PL I \(23\) 7](#) – ERGP Report on future needs of the USO

[ERGP PL I \(23\) 13](#) – Report on the application and implementation of the Regulation on cross-border parcel delivery services

Other documents approved for public consultation:

[ERGP PL I \(23\) 4](#) – Draft ERGP work programme 2024