



Czech Telecommunication Office

March 2024

Telegraphically

5G in trains

CTU has launched a [public consultation](#) on the draft version of the upcoming subsidy call “Technical Devices for 5G in Railway Coaches”. The aim of the subsidy call is to support the availability of 5G networks in railway coaches by installing appropriate technical devices (repeaters or permeable windows) so that these coaches have good coverage of mobile voice and data services. The subsidy call takes place within the framework of the National Recovery Plan. More information can be found [here](#).

Great Unmasking

The National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NÚKIB), the Police of the Czech Republic and the Czech Banking Association have launched an awareness campaign regarding fraudulent phone calls, the number and quality of which have been increasing significantly in recent years. Video clips have been produced to demonstrate the various practices of these criminals and can be viewed at www.velkeodhaleni.cz, where the general public can also obtain additional information on this widespread security threat.

Certification processes under the DSA

On 20 March at 1:30 p.m., a workshop will be held at CTU focusing on the certification processes resulting from the DSA, i.e. granting the status of out-of-court dispute settlement entity, trusted flagger and vetted researcher. The role of these entities and the Office in the DSA ecosystem will also be presented.

CTU in 2023: Successful DAB auction, preparing for the role of Digital Services Coordinator, addressing the problem of spoofing, subsidy call for repeaters

In the first quarter of the year, we regularly provide an overview of the most important activities of the Czech Telecommunication Office in the past year in our monitoring report. So what were the important events in 2023? We have completed the [5th round of relevant market analyses](#), successfully completed the [tender](#) for granting of the rights to use radio frequencies for DAB broadcasting networks with yield that was higher than expected, we have succeeded in securing improvements to the terms of mandatory wholesale reference offers in the mobile market, and [carried out a review of postal services](#) as a crucial step towards preparation for ensuring the availability of universal postal services from 2025 and the granting of a new postal licence. By

building a new department and establishing cooperation with stakeholders at national and international level, we have been [actively preparing ourselves](#) for our future role as Digital Services Coordinator. For the first time, we have also prepared a proposal for a [subsidy call](#), namely for 5G repeaters and other technical devices to help ensure a better quality of mobile services inside railway coaches. We were also involved in the [preparation of measures aimed at reducing spoofing](#). A number of other activities will be completed in 2024.

ANALYSES OF RELEVANT MARKETS

CTU has prepared draft analyses of relevant markets 1 and former market 3b (Wholesale local access provided at a fixed location and Wholesale central access provided at a fixed location for mass-market products). In our revised drafts of both analyses (ART1/3b) we have taken into account the previous reservations of the European Commission. The drafts were successfully notified on 1 June 2023. We released both analyses in July 2023. Follow-up administrative proceedings to impose an obligation on market 1 and withdraw an obligation on market 3b were initiated in September 2023. All decisions were subsequently approved for release by the Council on 14 February 2024 following notification to the EC.

AUCTIONS FOR DAB NETWORKS

In the first half of the year, the Office substantially modified the draft conditions of the upcoming auction of frequencies for DAB networks. In order to maximize transparency, CTU held repeated workshops and consultations with potential bidders. We [launched](#) the tender (auction) in August last year and the auction part of the tender [was completed](#) in early 2024. On the basis of the results of the auction, the Office subsequently closed the tender procedure by granting block allocations to all 8 successful bidders, yielding CZK 79,325,000. Development criteria were set within the [tender](#) to ensure not only a successful development of new commercial broadcasting networks and thus support the further development of DAB broadcasting, but also to ensure the efficient use of the allocated radio frequencies. The nationwide networks are expected to cover 50% of the population and motorways within 18 months and 80% of the population and motorways in another 12 months. Regional broadcasting is expected to cover 40% of the population of the relevant region within 24 months and 70% of the population of the region in another 24 months.

ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF SPOOFING

During 2023, CTU, in cooperation with sector representatives, analysed technical and organisational ways to limit the negative impact of spoofing in the Czech Republic. In addition to the self-regulation that mobile operators have gradually started to apply, we have also discussed possible regulatory measures at working meetings. At the end of the year, the Office presented a proposal for specific measures in the form of an amendment or, more precisely, addition of new conditions in General Authorisation No. VO-S/2/07.2005-10 laying down the conditions for the provision of public communications networks and associated facilities. During 2024, our activities continued with a final working session (workshop on 31 January 2024) and [the launch of a public consultation](#) prior to the adoption and subsequent issuance of the amendment to the general authorisation. At the same time, as part of its support to the Ministry of Industry and Trade in the preparation of the draft amendment to the Electronic Communications Act ([Act No. 127/2005 Coll.](#)), the Office helped to formulate conditions to enable the exchange of information between operators necessary to prevent the misuse of telephone numbers.

ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF DIGITAL SERVICES

In connection with the performance of the new tasks arising from [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1150 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) and the preparation of the Office as the National Digital Services Coordinator proposed by the Government for the future takeover of other tasks in the area of digital services, a new Specialised Agenda Supervision Unit was established within the Office as of 1 January 2023. The department is responsible for overseeing the professional tasks with a nationwide scope (handling complaints and enquiries, inspections, administrative offences), including methodological activities. The department participated in the development of legislation related to the DSA and DGA and the recodification of P2B in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade. During the year, the newly created department has also been involved in international cooperation and represents the Office in working groups, and is preparing for [taking over the role of Digital Services Coordinator](#) in terms of organisation, personnel and other aspects. In the course of 2023, we held working meetings (workshops) with relevant representatives of the digital services sector, provided the necessary consultation to all interested parties and [published](#) supporting materials on our website.

VPORAL

In the course of 2023, we repeatedly improved the visualization tool, [VPortal](#), which is used by users to compare the quality of telecommunications services in the Czech Republic. In addition to other modifications, two new modules have been added: the “Fixed Services” module, which shows available fixed connections and the results of user measurements of internet speeds performed by NetTest, and the “Development Criteria” module, which shows how individual operators (holders of block allocations of radio frequencies) are fulfilling their commitments from the 2017 and 2020 auctions to mobile signal coverage. This includes both coverage of municipalities that fall within the so-called “white areas” and improved coverage in cities or on rail or road corridors. A number of improvements have been made also to the TV signal coverage display. VPortal now offers a list of all active TV transmitters and it is possible to view the range of each of them. The results of the Office's coverage measurements have also become part of the VPortal, and information on viewer complaints can be viewed - both where the complaints came from and how they were resolved. We have also published an [illustrative video](#) on working with VPortal.

WRC 2023

The Czech Republic, represented by the Office, successfully participated in the World Radiocommunication Conference WRC-23 in Dubai. For this purpose, we prepared a comprehensive national position (national brief) that defined the interest of the Czech Republic for each of the conference items. One of these was the position on the UHF band, where representatives of CTU contributed to the formulation of a joint proposal by CEPT countries for long-term stable conditions for international use of this band. Representatives of CTU also drafted and successfully negotiated proposals on behalf of CEPT on two WRC agenda items related to consistency of the Radio Regulations.

NETTEST ALSO FOR iOS

We have developed and made available a mobile version of the [NetTest](#) tool for the iOS platform to complement the existing web version and Android app. This allows the quality of the Internet access service to be tested on virtually any device. The results documenting this user experience are continuously published by the Office on the VPortal.

PRICES AND PRICE REGULATION

In 2023, the Office carried out a check of compliance with the conditions of the 5G auction, namely for the obligation to publish reference offers for MVNOs. Based on repeated negotiations with operators and thanks to their proactive approach, all three network operators recalculated their prices in the first half of the year and published new offers for potential full and light MVNOs as of mid-April 2023. They also published new reference offers as of mid-October 2023. 2023 saw also a reduction or cancellation of monthly payments, selected one-off prices, as well as a positive change consisting in the possibility to purchase voice and SMS services on a commercial basis in addition to data from mandatory offers. Unit prices per MB of data for mobile virtual operators have fallen significantly during 2023.

POSTAL SERVICES

In the course of 2023, the Office participated in the forthcoming amendment to the Postal Services Act in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade. At the same time, we carried out a comprehensive [review of the postal market](#) and preparation of related documents necessary for the consultation on the intention to impose an obligation to provide universal services for the period from 2025 under the new postal licence. The Office also verified the net costs of providing universal postal services for the year 2022. The reimbursement of the net costs representing the disproportionate financial burden (after taking into account the preliminary net costs already reimbursed) was made on 15 November 2023.

BETTER SIGNAL ON THE TRAIN

Although the Office has not had direct responsibility for the preparation of subsidy calls so far, we have prepared a draft subsidy call “Technical Devices for 5G in Railway Coaches” during 2023. The aim of the call is to help improve the availability and quality of mobile services inside railway coaches, and the Office undertook the preparation of this subsidy call under a delegation agreement with the Ministry of Industry and Trade in early 2023 to support the delivery of the objectives of the National Recovery Plan in the area of improved availability of 5G network signal on railway corridors. We [published](#) the draft subsidy call for consultation in February 2024.

INSPECTIONS ON HOW SERVICES ARE PROVIDED

The inspection of the provision of pre-contractual information and contract summary was combined with a follow-up inspection of the entities identified in the framework of the inspections of compliance with the conditions of the General Authorisation VO-S/1 and was carried out during the second half of 2023. In addition to the obligation to provide pre-contractual information and a summary of the contract, other contractual obligations under the Act were also checked. A total of 50 subjects were inspected; in 42 cases violations of [the Electronic Communications Act](#) were found. In subsequent administrative offence proceedings, fines in total amount of CZK 2.2 million were imposed.

The Office also carried out an inspection of compliance with [Decree No. 58/2022 Coll.](#), on conditions for number portability and the switching of Internet access service provider, which led, among other things, to the inspected entities correcting partial deficiencies. As a result, it was found that both options - phone number portability and switching the internet access service providers - work and are used in practice. The Office did not identify any systemic problems in the application practice of Decree No. 58/2022 Coll.

In 2023, 270 inspections were carried out to verify the activities actually carried out by providers of electronic communications services. Defects were found in 102 cases.

In 2023, we also carried out an inspection of the fulfilment of obligations in making official deliveries by the postal licence holder. The delivery of a total of 1,198 official postal items was examined and no major deficiencies were found. Only 21 postal items were found to be problematic, representing only 1.75% of the total sample.

INSPECTION ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

In 2023, 219 inspections of the use of frequencies under the general authorisation were carried out, and in 155 cases frequency use was found to be in violation of the conditions set by the relevant general authorisations (VO-R). CTU also carried out 37 inspections of compliance with the conditions of the individual authorisation for the use of radio frequencies. In 22 cases (i.e. 59.5%) a violation of one of the conditions of the individual authorisation was detected, the most frequent being a violation of the conditions for the operation of VHF FM radio transmitters (13 cases). As part of the monitoring and follow-up inspections focusing on the use of frequencies without an individual authorisation, 143 inspections were closed in 2023; in 110 cases, the use of frequencies in violation of [Section 17 of the Electronic Communications Act](#) was detected, with the most frequent violations committed by mobile and fixed service operators (59 cases) and RLAN operators (44 cases).

Monitoring of the availability and quality of DVB-T2 signal reception and identification of the actual causes of poor signal reception quality was carried out on an ongoing basis based on the results of completed investigations of TV viewers' complaints. In 2023, 1,315 closed cases were evaluated. The structure of the causes of poor signal reception quality has remained the same over the long term, with the most frequent finding in local investigations being a fault on the receiving side with the TV viewer - this currently accounts for 48.6% of all cases dealt with (a total of 639 cases). The most common defect in the viewer's receiving equipment is a defective antenna or its improper placement or direction. Insufficient signal at the reception location was detected in 86 cases (6.5%).

Connection speeds must be clearly and specifically stated in contracts

As of January 2021, an update to the [General Authorisation VO-S/1](#) is in effect, according to which detailed service parameters must be included in any contract for the provision of Internet access services. The Municipal Court in Prague has now upheld the CTU's interpretation that these parameters must be stated unambiguously in such a way that they are easily identifiable for comparison when accepting an offer. Speed notation in the form of mathematical notation is not permitted.

The above-mentioned General Authorisation (currently in effect in [this version](#)) imposes, among other things, an obligation on providers of internet access services to indicate specific download and upload speeds in subscription contracts with consumers (for details see, for example, the [Monitoring Report of January 2021](#)). The general authorisation even explicitly states that the stated unit of speed should be numeric values in bits per second (e.g. kbps or Mbps).

During 2021, the Office carried out a nationwide and multi-stage inspection and [imposed fines](#) on providers that failed to comply with the conditions of the general authorisation despite the assistance and education provided by CTU. These and other activities of the Office have contributed to a substantial improvement in end-users' awareness of the speed parameters of the services they use, and to aligning these parameters with the actual user experience.

CUSTOMERS, WATCH OUT FOR: WHAT MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT FOR THE INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE

For the service of Internet access at a fixed location, the contract or contractual document must specify the advertised speed, maximum speed, and also normally available speed which should be available 95% of the time and must not be stated as lower than 60% of the advertised speed, and the minimum speed which must not be lower than 30% of the advertised speed. In the case of mobile Internet access, providers must provide information in the contract on not only the advertised speed but also the estimated maximum speed. Whether for fixed or mobile access, providers must provide information in the contract on the definition of significant discrepancies from the agreed performance of the service and on the possibilities of exercising remedies. If the customer does not find this information in the contract documents, they should contact the operator.

Record-breaking year for the Telecommunication Academy: 95 lectures delivered in 2023

The Czech Telecommunication Office's public awareness project (not only) for the elderly was very successful in 2023. The highest number of lectures held since the launch of the [Telecommunication Academy](#), 95 in total, was reached. They were heard by 2,051 seniors and 144 juveniles. This success testifies not only to the growing public interest in education for the elderly, but also to the quality and relevance of the topics offered.

A selection of planned items on the agenda of the CTU Council meeting

Draft settlement of comments on the intention to impose a postal obligation from the public consultation

A draft settlement of the comments from the public consultation will be submitted to the Council for approval, on the basis of which the Council will discuss the draft conditions of the selection procedure for the postal licence holder for the period from 1 January 2025.

Radio spectrum management strategy

The Council will take note of the state of preparation of the Spectrum Management Strategy material.

Amendment to the Measure of General Nature to prevent spoofing

Settlement of the comments from the public consultation and a proposal to issue an amendment to the VO-S 2 will be submitted to the Council for approval.

CTU Annual Report 2023

The supporting document for the 2023 Annual Report on CTU's activities will be submitted to the Council in the first reading.

We will also inform you via press releases about the key materials discussed by the CTU Council.

Legislative changes

CTU RULES FOR CONDUCTING CONSULTATIONS ON THE DISCUSSION SITE

On 6 March 2024, the new Rules of the Czech Telecommunication Office for Conducting Consultations on the Discussion Site issued pursuant to [Section 130\(8\) of Act No. 127/2005 Coll.](#) on Electronic Communications and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts (Electronic Communications Act), as amended by Act No. 374/2021 Coll., (hereinafter referred to as the “Rules”), which supersede the existing regulation on the conduct of consultations, were published in [Volume 3/2024 of the Telecommunication Bulletin](#) under ref. No. ČTÚ-627/2024-606.

The new Rules will come into effect on 1 May 2024. Consultations launched before this date are governed by the existing regulation, namely [the rules issued under ref. No. ČTÚ-87 392/2013-606](#) on 13 November 2013.

Checked by CTU in February...

... 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

In February, CTU completed 10 inspections in which deficiencies were found in 10 cases, consisting mainly in violation of the conditions for the utilisation of radio frequencies, 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 10 inspections focused on the use of frequencies without authorisation (including frequencies for the use of which an individual authorisation cannot be issued). In 8 cases, the use of frequencies without authorisation by the operation of land mobile service stations, broadband data transmission devices (RLAN), and DVB-T2 repeaters was detected. 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 February, CTU closed 15 cases of interference to GSM, LTE and 5G public mobile communication networks, 4 cases of interference to radio and satellite signal reception, and another 9 cases of interference to various devices (meteorological radar, short-range devices, amateur service stations, and broadband data transmission devices). 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 February, CTU closed a total of 45 cases of TV signal reception interference. The investigation of complaints about poor TV signal reception revealed that in 28 cases the defect was in the viewer's equipment (most often a technical fault of the receiving antenna or lead-in). In 2 cases the interference stopped or did not manifest itself during the investigation, and in 8 cases the complainant cancelled the interference complaint during the investigation. In 3 cases, the reception problem was caused by

poor signal quality at the reception location. In 4 cases, a source of interference was detected, and in all 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 29 February 2024, 457 base stations were in pilot operation, and 17,400 stations were in permanent operation. In February, an LTE base station was not identified as a source of TV signal interference.

... pilot operation of 5G/LTE base stations in the 700 MHz band

As of 29 February 2024, 2,135 base stations were in pilot operation, and 7,392 stations were in permanent operation. In February, a 5G/LTE base station was identified as a source of TV signal reception interference in 4 cases. In all cases, the mobile network operators eliminated the interference at their own cost based on CTU's decision. In February, CTU sent a letter via data mailbox to 21 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.

1,660 - the number of decisions issued in February on the matter, of which 1,655 decisions concerned a dispute over monetary consideration (payment of the price for services).

1,643 - the number of administrative proceedings initiated in February 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 in cases of complaints about the billing of the price or the provided publicly available electronic communications service.

CTU does not have the power to revoke operators' authorisation to carry out business activities

According to the Electronic Communications Act, natural and legal persons that meet the general conditions laid down in this Act may carry out business activities in the field of electronic communications in the territory of the Czech Republic, which for natural persons means legal age, full legal capacity and clear criminal record. Legal persons, including persons acting in the capacity of their statutory bodies, must also meet the requirement for clear criminal record. A person who intends to carry out a communication activity which constitutes a business activity in the field of electronic communications shall notify CTU of this fact in advance. The notification must comply with the formal and content requirements laid down by law. If the notification does not meet the requirements, CTU will call on the notifying person to amend the notification or eliminate the defects. If the notification of commencement of business activities does not contain any defects, the authorisation to carry out business activities will begin on the date of its delivery to CTU. **Carrying out business activities in the field of electronic communications in the Czech Republic is therefore not subject to any other conditions. In principle, CTU has no authority to revoke or suspend a service provider's business licence, even in the case of actual or even alleged breach of contractual obligations.**

If consumers are not satisfied in any respect with the quality of the service provided or its price, we recommend in the first place to apply the remedies provided for by law. In the case of a poorly provided service or incorrect billing, this remedy is a claim, which consumers can raise with the service provider within the period of 2 months of the date of delivery of the bill stating the price for the service provided or the provision of the service. If the undertaking fails to comply with the claim, the consumer is entitled to submit a petition with CTU to initiate proceedings concerning an objection to a claim

settlement without undue delay, no later than 1 month from the date of delivery of the notice of claim settlement or the expiry of the deadline for its settlement without effect.

If consumers encounter inappropriate behaviour by employees of a service provider, we recommend that they directly contact the service provider who may address the inappropriate behaviour of its employees through employment law.

Radio spectrum management

DIGITAL TV AND RADIO BROADCASTING

All eight companies that auctioned radio frequency block allocations for the nationwide and regional digital radio networks have already [received the decision](#) of the CTU Council Chairman on the granting of radio frequency block allocations. The auction of radio frequencies yielded almost CZK 80 million. The nationwide networks are expected to cover 50% of the population and motorways within 18 months and 80% of the population and motorways in another 12 months. Regional broadcasting is expected to cover 40% of the population of the relevant region within 24 months and 70% of the population of the region in another 24 months.

ECC DISCUSSED 4 GHz AS WELL AS STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR SATELLITE NETWORKS AND 6G

The 63rd plenary meeting of the Electronic Communications Committee of CEPT was held in Vilnius from 5 to 8 March 2024. The committee appointed Christoph Hildebrand (Germany) as chairman of the ECC/PT1 team (mobile networks) and Stephen Talbot (United Kingdom) as chairman of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27) preparation group.

Among the documents accepted for public consultation are, for example, a proposal to relax the existing requirements for out-of-band radiation from RLANs (including Wi-Fi) from the 6 GHz band below 5935 MHz, a draft ECC 358 Report for the 3.8-4.2 GHz band with studies on local area network sharing, and proposals to expand the conditions for operation of short-range devices to other applications.

Under the new EU mandate, the committee has assigned the ECC/PT1 team the task of developing harmonised technical and operational conditions for the use of frequencies by drones in the frequency bands of public mobile networks.

A roadmap for satellite communications was also discussed, with an emphasis on Europe's entry into a new era of development of these communications networks, including hybrid networks combining terrestrial and satellite connectivity (6G non-terrestrial networks). The meeting also initiated the preparation of a strategy document on the topic of 6G Roadmap and the initiation proposal for the structure of the WRC-27 preparatory group.

Postal services

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICES

On 23 February 2024, CTU launched a [public consultation](#) on the intention to impose an obligation to provide selected universal services for the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2029, based on the results of the review. Comments on the intention may be submitted within 30 days of the date of publication of the call. We also provided more information via a [press release](#).

ENISA meeting in Prague

Security of public communications networks

The 42nd meeting of the expert group European Competent Authorities for Secure Electronic Communications (ECASEC) was held on 21-22 February 2024 under the auspices of CTU at the Grand Hotel International in Prague 6.

The ECASEC expert group is part of the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA). The working meeting was attended by representatives of most European regulatory authorities. The presentation covered the issues of security, confidentiality and resilience of public communication networks, as well as changes in the process of reporting serious incidents in public communication networks. A part of the agenda of the working meeting was also devoted to the issue of cyber security. A welcoming speech addressing the attendees was delivered by Ing. Marek Ebert, Chairman of the Council of the Czech Telecommunication Office. Guests from the Czech Republic included representatives of the National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NÚKIB), whose presentations on the issue of complexity of the process of implementation of the Network Information Security v 2.0 Directive or supply chain security were met with great interest and subsequent discussion of the attendees.

Telecommunications regulation in the EU

Official Journal of the EU

On 16 February, [COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2024/607](#) of 15 February 2024 on the practical and operational arrangements for the functioning of the information sharing system (AGORA) pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('Digital Services Act') was published. This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union and shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

On 17 February, [Digital Services Act \(DSA\)](#) came into effect. More information about this Regulation can be found in [the previous monitoring report](#) (p. 2 – 4) or in the [press release](#).

On 19 February, [COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION \(EU\) 2024/539](#) of 6 February 2024 on the regulatory promotion of gigabit Connectivity was published.

On 22 February, [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) on the performance of independent audits according to the DSA entered into force. Under the DSA, very large online platforms and very large online search engines must be audited annually by an independent auditor to assess their compliance with the obligations under the DSA and any commitments made under adopted codes of conduct and crisis protocols.

GIA

On 6 February, the political [agreement](#) was reached among the European Commission, European Parliament and the Council on the Gigabit Infrastructure Act (GIA), proposed by the Commission on [23 February 2023](#). The agreement reached on the GIA now needs to be formally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. The adoption is expected in April 2024. New rules will replace the [2014 Broadband Cost Reduction Directive](#).

European Commission

From 8 to 7 March, a public consultation was held on the [draft Digital Services Act \(DSA\) guidelines on the integrity of electoral processes](#). In the proposed guidelines, the Commission sets out specific steps, measures and other mechanisms that providers of very large online platforms and very large online search engines should adopt to ensure the proper conduct of the electoral process

On 19 February, the Commission announced the opening of a formal procedure to assess whether TikTok does not breach [Digital Services Act](#). The formal procedure was launched on the basis of the preliminary investigation carried out so far, including the analysis of the risk assessment report sent by TikTok in September 2023, as well as TikTok's replies to the Commission's formal requests for information ([about illegal content](#), [protection of minors](#) and [access to data](#)).

On 21 February, the Commission presented its package on digital networks and infrastructures (digital connectivity package). It is a set of information and proposals which shall help the Commission to achieve digital decade goals set out in the Commission decision (EU) 2022/2481 of 14 December 2022 establishing the [Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030](#) (DDPP), in particular the completion of quality connectivity across the EU. The package includes two main documents:

- The [White Paper on “How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs?”](#). This set of reflections, scenarios and possible measures on digital connectivity, infrastructures and their future use is intended to launch a broad stakeholder debate on how to shape future EU policy and regulatory measures to support the digital economy. [Public consultation runs on “Have-your-say” portal](#) until 30 June 2024.
- The [Recommendation on the security and resilience of submarine cable infrastructures](#) presents a set of actions at national and EU level aimed at improving submarine cable security and resilience, through a better coordination across the EU, both in terms of governance and funding.

And two accompanying documents:

- Information leaflet on the need of digital infrastructures
- [ENISA Report](#) on cyber security and resilience of communication infrastructures and networks in the EU

EDIB meeting

On 7 February, a meeting of the European Data Innovation Board (EDIB) was held in Luxembourg with the participation of a representative of the CTU. The agenda of the meeting included, among other things, a discussion on the current state of implementation of the DGA Regulation, developments in the area of so-called data spaces and the preparation of standards in the data economy.

European Board for Digital Services (EBDS)

On 15 March, representatives of the CTU participated in the online 2nd meeting of the European Board for Digital Services. The main topic of the meeting was the discussion of the emerging rules of procedure of the Board and the discussion of the implementing regulations, on which the European Commission has now closed the public consultation. The implementing regulations are key to the implementation of some of the agendas set out in the DSA Regulation, such as enabling researchers to access data. The Board also discussed the preparation of EC guidelines on electoral processes, which

should already provide guidance to very large platforms and search engines for the upcoming European Parliament elections. Further discussions were held on codes of conduct for platforms covering the issue of occurrences of illegal defamatory statements and misinformation. The next meeting will take place on 25 April.

BEREC

The [58th BEREC Plenary meeting](#) was held online on 7 March.

The following documents were [adopted for publication](#):

- [BoR \(24\) 37](#) Summary Report of the Workshop on Internet of Things: Perspectives and Competition
- [BoR \(24\) 38](#) 30th International Roaming Benchmark Data and Monitoring Report (incl. Annex on Western Balkan countries)
- [BoR \(24\) 40](#) Report on Member States' best practices to support the defining of adequate broadband internet access service (IAS) and Report on the outcome of public consultation
- [BoR \(24\) 42](#) Guidelines detailing Quality of Service Parameters (QoS) and Report on the outcome of public consultation

Other documents adopted for [public consultation](#):

- [BoR \(24\) 51](#) Draft Report on the entry of large content and application providers into the markets for electronic communications networks and services
- [BoR \(24\) 52](#) Draft Report on Cloud and Edge Computing Services

On 26 March, 12th [BEREC Stakeholder Forum](#) will take place in Brussels.