# Public Consultation on the Evaluation and Review of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive

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#### Introduction

The Broadband Cost Reduction Directive (2014/61/EU) aims to facilitate and incentivise the roll-out of high-speed electronic communications networks by lowering the costs of deployment with a set of harmonised measures. The measures focus on access to existing physical infrastructure, coordination of civil works, simplification of administrative procedures and requirements for inbuilding physical infrastructure for new buildings and major renovations. It also includes provisions to ensure transparency of relevant information through Single Information Points and dispute resolution mechanisms.

The review of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive is part of the actions announced in the Communication on 'Shaping Europe's Digital Future' (COM (2020)67 final), which stressed that, for digital infrastructure and networks alone, the EU has an investment gap of EUR 65 billion per year. Moreover, adequate investments at EU, national and regional levels are necessary to achieve the EU 2025 connectivity objectives and a Gigabit Society (COM(2016) 587 final) in Europe.

The evidence gathered so far by the Commission, including the <u>report on the implementation of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive (COM(2018) 492)</u> and the continuous monitoring of its implementation in the Member States, gives rise to the need for the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive to be evaluated and possibly revised. At the same time, the revised instrument should adapt to recent and current technological, market and regulatory developments and help foster a more efficient and fast deployment of more sustainable very high capacity networks, including fibre and 5G, ensuring alignment with the European Electronic Communications Code and contributing to greening the Information

and Communication Technology sector as part of the 'European Green Deal' (COM(2019) 640).

The Commission is carrying out an evaluation of the current measures under the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive and an impact assessment of a possible revised instrument, in a back-to-back process. In this context, this public consultation has two main objectives:

- 1. collect stakeholders' views and inputs on the implementation of the Directive to support the analysis of the backward-looking evaluation and,
- 2. collect stakeholders' views and inputs to support forward-looking policy options.

Written feedback provided in other document formats can be uploaded through the button made available at the end of the questionnaire.

### About you

Lithuanian

Maltese

*Language of my contribution	
Bulgarian	
Croatian	
Czech	
Danish	
Dutch	
English	
Estonian	
Finnish	
French	
German	
Greek	
Hungarian	
Irish	
Italian	
Latvian	

0	Polish
0	Portuguese
0	Romanian
	Slovak
0	Slovenian
0	Spanish
0	Swedish
¹I am	giving my contribution as
0	Academic/research institution
	Business association
0	Company/business organisation
0	Consumer organisation
0	EU citizen
0	Environmental organisation
0	Non-EU citizen
0	Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
0	Public authority
0	Trade union
0	Other
* First	name
*Surn	ame
*Ema	il (this won't be published)
*Scop	oe
0	International
0	Local
0	National
0	Regional

Level of governance			
Local Authority			
Local Agency			
*Level of governance			
Parliament			
Authority			
Agency			
*Organisation name			
255 character(s) maximum			
*Organisation size			
Micro (1 to 9 em	inlovees)		
Small (10 to 49			
	,		
Medium (50 to 2			
Large (250 or m	iore)		
Transparency registe	r number		
255 character(s) maximum	T Harrison		
Check if your organisation is		er. It's a voluntary database fo	r organisations seeking to
influence EU decision-makin	g.		
*Country of origin			
Please add your country of c  Afghanistan	Djibouti		Saint Martin
<ul><li>Alghanistan</li><li>Åland Islands</li></ul>		Libya	
Aland Islands	Dominica	Liechtenstein	Saint Pierre
	O D		and Miquelon
Albania	Dominican	Lithuania	Saint Vincent
	Republic		and the
			Grenadines
Algeria	Ecuador	Luxembourg	Samoa
American	Egypt	Macau	San Marino
Samoa			

Andorra	El Salvador	Madagascar	São Tomé and Príncipe
Angola	Equatorial Guinea	Malawi	Saudi Arabia
Anguilla	Eritrea	Malaysia	Senegal
Antarctica	Estonia	Maldives	Serbia
Antigua and Barbuda	Eswatini	Mali	Seychelles
Argentina	Ethiopia	Malta	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Falkland Islands	Marshall Islands	Singapore
Aruba	Faroe Islands	Martinique	Sint Maarten
Australia	Fiji	Mauritania	Slovakia
Austria	Finland	Mauritius	Slovenia
Azerbaijan	France	Mayotte	Solomon
			Islands
Bahamas	French Guiana	Mexico	Somalia
Bahrain	French Polynesia	Micronesia	South Africa
Bangladesh	<ul><li>French</li><li>Southern and</li><li>Antarctic Lands</li></ul>	Moldova	<ul><li>South Georgia and the South Sandwich</li></ul>
	Antarctic Lands		Islands
Barbados	Gabon	Monaco	South Korea
Belarus	Georgia	Mongolia	South Sudan
Belgium	Germany	Montenegro	Spain
Belize	Ghana	Montserrat	Sri Lanka
Benin	Gibraltar	Morocco	Sudan
Bermuda	Greece	Mozambique	Suriname
Bhutan	Greenland	Myanmar /Burma	Svalbard and Jan Mayen
Bolivia	Grenada	Namibia	Sweden
<ul><li>Bonaire Saint</li><li>Eustatius and</li><li>Saba</li></ul>	Guadeloupe	Nauru	Switzerland

Bosnia and	Guam	Nepal	Syria
Herzegovina  Botswana	Guatemala	Netherlands	Taiwan
Bouvet Island	Guernsey	New Caledonia	<ul><li>Tajikistan</li></ul>
Brazil	Guinea	New Zealand	Tanzania
British Indian	Guinea-Bissau		<ul><li>Thailand</li></ul>
Ocean Territory	Guillea-Dissau	Nicaragua	Thalland
British Virgin	© Guyana	Niger	The Gambia
Islands	Guyana	Niger	The Gambia
Brunei	Haiti	Nigeria	Timor-Leste
	Heard Island	Niue	
Bulgaria	and McDonald	Niue	Togo
	Islands		
Burkina Faso	Honduras	Norfolk Island	Tokelau
Burundi	<ul><li>Hong Kong</li></ul>	Northern	Tonga
Burundi	riong Rong	Mariana Islands	Toriga
Cambodia	Hungary	North Korea	Trinidad and
Gambodia	rangary	North Norea	Tobago
Cameroon	Iceland	North	Tunisia
Gameroon	iooiana	Macedonia	Tarnola
Canada	India	Norway	Turkey
Cape Verde	Indonesia	Oman	Turkmenistan
Cayman Islands	© Iran	Pakistan	Turks and
oayman lolando	nan	ranotari	Caicos Islands
Central African	<sup>◎</sup> Iraq	Palau	Tuvalu
Republic		. 4.46	
Chad	Ireland	Palestine	Uganda
Chile	Isle of Man	Panama	Ukraine
China	Israel	Papua New	United Arab
		Guinea	Emirates
Christmas	Italy	Paraguay	United
Island	,	3 <i>y</i>	Kingdom
Clipperton	Jamaica	Peru	United States
• •			

©	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Japan		Philippines		United States Minor Outlying Islands
0	Colombia	Jersey	0	Pitcairn Islands		Uruguay
0	Comoros	Jordan		Poland		US Virgin
						Islands
0	Congo	Kazakhstan		Portugal		Uzbekistan
0	Cook Islands	Kenya		Puerto Rico		Vanuatu
0	Costa Rica	Kiribati		Qatar		Vatican City
0	Côte d'Ivoire	Kosovo		Réunion		Venezuela
0	Croatia	Kuwait		Romania		Vietnam
0	Cuba	Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Wallis and
						Futuna
0	Curaçao	Laos		Rwanda		Western
						Sahara
0	Cyprus	Latvia		Saint		Yemen
				Barthélemy		
0	Czechia	Lebanon		Saint Helena		Zambia
				Ascension and		
				Tristan da		
_				Cunha		
0	Democratic	Lesotho	0	Saint Kitts and	0	Zimbabwe
	Republic of the			Nevis		
	Congo					
	Denmark	Liberia		Saint Lucia		

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

### \*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

### Anonymous

The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, your country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself.

### Public

Your name, the type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, your country of origin and your contribution will be published.

#### \*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

### Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

### Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

- I agree with the <u>personal data protection provisions</u>
- \* Please specify further the capacity(s) in which you are replying to the questionnaire (several answers may be selected):
  - Operator of electronic communications networks (individual operator or industry association).
  - Operators of physical infrastructure intended to host electronic communications networks (individual operator or industry association).

Operator of other types of networks intended to provide a service of production, transport or distribution of gas, electricity (including public lighting), heating and water (including disposal or treatment of waste water and sewage and drainage systems), as well as transport services, including railways, roads, ports and airports (individual operator or industry association).  Government (national) Authority/Body  Regional Authority/Body  National regulatory authority for the electronic communications sector.  National regulatory authority for other sectors (energy, transport, etc.).  EU body or institution  Other public body or institution  Owner or manager of private property that may be used for the deployment of electronic communications networks (individual or association).  Supplier of electronic communications equipment and related services (individual operator or industry association).  Building and civil works sector (individual operator or industry association).  Stakeholder with a general interest in the deployment of very high capacity networks and services including citizens, social and economic organisations /groups, and nongovernmental bodies.  Stakeholder interested in environmental protection, including citizens, social and economic organisations/groups, and nongovernmental bodies.
Expert in the subject matter, including academia and think tanks  Other
Type of electronic communications networks operator:  Fixed  Mobile/Wireless  Fixed and Mobile/Wireless
Please indicate what functions this Public Authority/Body performs in the scope of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive (several functions may be selected):  Competent authority/body to grant or refuse permits for building or civil works related to the deployment of electronic communications networks.

<ul> <li>Competent authority/body to provide access to public property (e.g. administrative buildings, zones adjacent to communication routes) or other elements and facilities suitable to build or install network elements, including street furniture.</li> <li>Dispute settlement body for the tasks assigned by the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive (Art. 10(1)).</li> <li>Single information point for the tasks assigned by the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive (Art.10(4)).</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Competent authority/body to apply penalties for infringements of national measures pursuant to the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive (Art. 11).</li> <li>Other function</li> </ul>
Please specify the function:
Please specify the capacity in which you are replying:  General questions
This section includes some general questions on the benefits of widespread high quality connectivity, the joint deployment of networks, and the role of public authorities to facilitate this deployment.
1. In your opinion, to what extent can widespread high quality connectivity play a role in the response to the COVID-19 crisis and the economic recovery?
2. To what extent is it appropriate to apply measures at European Union level to facilitate and incentivise the roll-out of high-speed electronic communications networks?
3. In your opinion, what benefits could be obtained from the coordination of civil works for the joint deployment of networks (telecommunications, electricity, gas, roads)?

	Besides public funding, wh els- play to facilitate the de		•				
	aluation of the overall furective	ınctioninç	g of the E	Broadba	nd Cost	Reduction	n
Cos	s section includes some general qu t Reduction Directive in relation to julation Guidelines (i.e. effectivene	the key eval	luation criter	ria establish	ned in the Co	ommission's	
acł	To what extent has the Bronieve its general objective mmunications networks de Not effective at all  Not effective  Neutral  Effective  Very effective  No opinion	e of reduc	cing the co				
imp	ease explain your response plementation of the Directived broadband deploymen	e that hav					high-
	Γο what extent has the Bro nieve its operational obje		ost Redu	ction Dir	ective bee	en <b>effecti</b>	ve to
		Not effective at all	Not effective	Neutral	Effective	Very effective	No opinion
	Increased access to existing physical infrastructure suitable for high-speed broadband roll-	0	•	0	0	0	0

out

works

Reinforced coordination of civil

	permit granting						
	Increased access to existing physical infrastructure suitable for high-speed broadband rollout	0	•	0	0	0	0
Ple	ase explain your answer(s	s):					
7. <i>F</i>	As regards the <b>efficiency</b> (	of the Broa	adband C	ost Redu	uction Dire	ective and	d its
imp	lementing measures, if yo	u compare	e the cost	s of impl	ementatio	on and of	
	npliance borne by your org					-	
	cost-benefit ratio at scale	•	costs sigi	nificantly	exceed b	enefits, 5	=
ber	efits significantly exceed of	costs)?					
(	<sup>2</sup> 1						
(	3						
(	4						
(	5						
(	No opinion						
	rto opinion						
Ple	ase explain your answer:						
	Could you give an estimate				,	J	
	pplying the Broadband Co		ion Direc	tive? Ple	ase indica	ate, if pos	sible,
tne	cause of these costs/savi	ngs.					
0 /	to records the relevance	of the Duc	adband O	oot Doel	iotion Dis	active to	whot
	As regards the <b>relevance</b> of the state of t						
	ent has this legislation at E ctronic communications ne						Oi
		Not					
		relevant at all	Not relevant	Neutral	Relevant	Very relevant	No opinion

Reduction of time and cost of

Access to existing physical infrastructure and related transparency measures	0	©	0	0	©	0
Coordination of civil works and related transparency measures	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permit-granting procedures	0	0	0	0	0	0
In-building physical infrastructure and related access measures	0	0	0	0	0	0
Competent bodies and other horizontal provisions	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ple	ease explain your answer(s):		

## 10. To what extent is the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive **coherent** with other EU policies?, in particular with:

	Not coherent at all	Not coherent	Neutral	Coherent	Very coherent	No opinion
The 2009 electronic communications regulatory framework, in particular its provisions on access (Significant Market Power and non- Significant Market Power), as well as on rights of way and rights to install facilities, dispute resolution, co-location and sharing of network elements and associated facilities.	•	•	•	•	•	©
The European Electronic Communications Code, in particular its provisions on access (Significant Market Power and non- Significant Market Power), as well as on small-area wireless access points,rights of way and rights to install facilities, dispute resolution, co-location and sharing of network elements and associated facilities.	•	•	•	•	•	©

Sector-specific EU Law on other network industries, in particular, in the energy and transport sectors.	0	0	•	0	0	•
Competition policy and state aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other EU policies	0	0	0	0	0	0

Please explain your answers, a	nd indicate if you have identified any areas for	
improvement of coherence.		

11. As regards the **EU added value** of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive, to what extent is the harmonisation brought by the Directive beneficial compared to individual national measures?

	Not beneficial at all	Not beneficial	Neutral	Beneficial	Very beneficial	No opinion
Ease of doing business across the EU	©	0	0	0	0	0
Economies of scale for companies with operations in multiple EU countries	0	•	0	•	•	0
Regulatory stability and legal certainty	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simple and efficient administrative procedures	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

⊃ا∈	ase explain your	answer(s):		

#### Subject matter and scope

The Broadband Cost Reduction Directive aims to facilitate and incentivise the roll-out of high-speed electronic communications networks by promoting the joint use of existing physical infrastructure and by enabling a more efficient deployment of new physical infrastructure so that such networks can be deployed at lower cost. To this end, the Directive establishes minimum requirements relating to civil works and physical infrastructure, with a view to approximating certain aspects of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States in those areas (Article1).

The terms used in this section, in particular 'network operator', 'physical infrastructure', 'civil works', 'permit', and 'high-speed electronic communications network' are understood as defined in Article 2 of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive. In addition, the term 'physical infrastructure' also includes 'street furniture such as light poles, street signs, traffic lights, billboards, bus and tramway stops and metro stations' as set out in Article 57 of the European Electronic Communications Code.

### 12. In your experience, to what extent do the following aspects influence the timely and efficient deployment of electronic communications networks?

	Not significantly at all	Less significantly	Moderately significantly	Significantly	Very significantly	No opinion
Permit- granting procedures	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permit- granting fees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information about on-going or planned civil works	0	•	•	0	0	•
Coordination of civil works and other co- investment or joint roll-out mechanisms	©	•	•	•	©	0
Information about existing physical infrastructures	0	•	•	0	0	•

Information about other elements and facilities suitable to install network elements	©	•	•	•	©	•
Access to existing physical infrastructures of electronic communication networks	•	•	•	•	•	•
Access to existing physical infrastructures of electricity supply networks	•	•	•	•	©	•
Access to existing physical infrastructures of other supply networks (e.g. water, heat, gas supply, sewerage)	•	•	•	•	•	•

Access to other elements and facilities suitable to install network elements	0	•	•	•	•	•
Access to in- building physical infrastructures	0	•	•	•	•	•
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

13. Do any of the aspects referred to in the previous questio	n narticularly affect
deployment of networks depending on the type of area* or the	
echnologies**?. If so, please explain how and why?	.0 40000
*Different types of areas where the network deployment is taking place can be identhe users or connected objects as follows:	ntified based on the location of
<ul> <li>Urban, suburban, rural areas: areas with different population densities in terconnected objects (e.g. sensors for IoT applications such as smart agricultum anagement, or critical communications)</li> <li>Business / industrial parks: areas with business users.</li> <li>Communication routes: areas along major terrestrial transport paths such as Connected Automated Mobility or other logistics applications will be deployed.</li> </ul>	re, water resources s roads or railways, where e.g.
**Access technologies can be classified according to the physical media of the accassociated:	ess network with which they are
<ul> <li>Fibre networks technologies: Passive/Active Optical Network technologies.</li> <li>Hybrid fibre-copper (twisted pair or coaxial) networks technologies: xDSL (Compared to the compared technologies).</li> <li>Wireless networks with small cells (femtocells, picocells, metrocells or microtechnologies: mainly 5G.</li> </ul>	WiMax

15. Do you consider that the current scope of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive, – by reference to high-speed networks of above 30 Mbps- remains appropriate, in particular taking into account the 2025 Gigabit strategic connectivity objectives (Towards a European Gigabit Society - COM(2016)587) and the new objective of promoting connectivity and access to, and take-up of very high capacity networks in the European Electronic Communications Code? Please explain your response:

Access and availability of physical infrastructure
Article 3 of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive requires network operators (not only operators of electronic communications networks, but also operators of other types of networks, such as energy and ransport), to meet reasonable requests for access to physical infrastructure for the purposes of deploying high-speed electronic communication networks, under fair and reasonable terms and conditions, including orice. Refusals must be grounded on objective, transparent, and proportionate criteria. Where access has been refused or an agreement has not been reached within two months from the day of the request, accesseekers can refer the issue to a dispute settlement body, which is empowered to resolve the dispute, including by setting fair and reasonable terms and conditions.  The Directive also requires that all newly constructed and majorly renovated buildings be equipped with obscious infrastructure, such as mini-ducts, capable of hosting high-speed networks, and an easily accessible access point in the case of multi-dwelling buildings (Article 8). Providers of public communications networks must have access to the access point and the in-building physical infrastructure ander fair and non-discriminatory terms and conditions, if duplication is technically impossible or economically inefficient (Article 9).
16. Please provide an estimation of the percentage that costs linked to physical
nfrastructure represent in relation to the overall costs of deployment of fixed and mobile/wireless networks for your organisation.
Fixed networks:
Up to 20%
© 20%-40%
<sup>©</sup> 40%-60%
© 60%-80%
More than 80%
Please explain your answer, including where relevant, for cases where new ohysical infrastructure is built and for cases where existing physical infrastructure accessed.
Mobile/wireless networks:
Up to 20%
© 20%-40%
© 40%-60%

0	60%-80%
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More than 80%

ease explain your answer, including where relevant, for cases where new
nysical infrastructure is built and for cases where existing physical infrastructure is
ccessed.

### 17. With respect to access to existing physical infrastructure, to what extent have the following factors led to a more costly or lengthy network deployment?

	Not at all significantly	Less significantly	Moderately significantly	Significantly	Very significantly	No opinion
Lack of availability of suitable physical infrastructure	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lack of information on existing physical infrastructure	©	•	•	•	•	•
Difficulty to agree on terms and conditions of access with owner	•	•	•	•	•	•
Slow /ineffective dispute resolution process	0	•	•	•	•	0
Other (please specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Please explain your answer, identifying where relevant potential differences	
between fixed and mobile/wireless networks.	

18. Do you consider that the obligations to meet reasonable requests for access under fair and reasonable terms and conditions, including pricing (Article 3(2) of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive), are appropriate to ensure effective and proportionate access to different types of existing physical infrastructure?

	Not at all appropriate	Not appropriate	Neutral	Appropriate	Very appropriate	No opinion
Physical infrastructure owned by operators of electronic communications networks	©	•	0	•	•	0
Physical infrastructure owned by operators of networks other than electronic communications networks	•	•	•	•	•	•

Please explain your answer, including, if relevant, how these access obligations should be modified.
19. Has the principle of 'fair and reasonable terms and conditions' for access to physical infrastructure under Article 3 of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive been applied effectively (with respect to the outcome) and efficiently (with respect to the time taken) by dispute resolution bodies?
Effectively (with respect to the outcome)  Strongly disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly agree
Efficiently (with respect to the time taken)  Strongly disagree  Disagree  Neutral Agree  Strongly agree  No opinion
Please explain your answer, including, if relevant, the benefits and/or problems encountered in the application of this principle.

## 20. Do you consider that the criteria provided in Article 3 of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive for refusing access to existing physical infrastructure are appropriate?

	Not at all appropriate	Not appropriate	Neutral	Appropriate	Very appropriate	No opinion
Technical suitability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Availability of space	0	0	0	0	0	0
Safety and public health concerns	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrity and security	0	0	0	0	0	0
Risk of serious interferences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Availability of alternative means	0	0	0	0	0	0

could be relevant.
21. Based on your experience, how relevant have been the current provisions on
high-speed-ready in-building physical infrastructure as provided in the Broadband
Cost Reduction Directive in facilitating the deployment of electronic
communications networks?
Not at all relevant
Less relevant
Moderately relevant
Very relevant
Mostly relevant
No opinion
Please explain your answer, indicating where relevant how the current provisions could be improved.
codia de improvea.
22. To what extent would the availability and access to neutral host infrastructures*
facilitate the deployment of electronic communications networks?. Please explain
your response and whether neutral host infrastructures could particularly affect
deployment of networks depending on the type of area (urban / suburban / rural,
business parks, communication routes) or access technology (wired / wireless).  * A neutral host infrastructure comprises a single, shared network solution provided on an open access basis to all
electronic communications operators.
Coordination of civil works

Places explain your answer based on your experience, indicating if other criteria

Article 5 of the Directive provides for the right of every network operator (not only operators of electronic communications networks, but also operators of other types of networks, such as energy and transport) to negotiate agreements concerning the coordination of civil works for the purpose of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks. Moreover, it provides for the obligation of every network operator which is fully or partially financed by public means, to meet any reasonable request to co-ordinate civil works on transparent and non-discriminatory terms, provided that such request is submitted in a timely manner, it does not entail additional costs or delays and the network operator can retain control over the coordination. Member States may provide for exemptions from the obligation for works of minor

significance, or related to critical infrastructure. Member States may also provide rules on the apportioning of the relevant costs. Where coordination has been refused or an agreement has not been reached within one month from the day of the request, access seekers can refer the issue to a dispute settlement body, which is empowered to resolve the dispute, including by setting fair and non-discriminatory terms, conditions and charges.

23. Please provide an estimation of the percentage that costs linked to physical infrastructure represent in relation to the overall costs of deployment of fixed and mobile/wireless networks for your organisation.

Fixed networks - cost savings
Up to 10%
0 10%-20%
© 30%-40%
<sup>©</sup> 40%-50%
More than 50%
Please explain your answer:
Mobile/wireless networks – cost savings
Up to 10%
<sup>©</sup> 10%-20%
© 30%-40%
<sup>©</sup> 40%-50%
More than 50%
Please explain your answer:

### 24. To what extent is it relevant for the deployment of electronic communications networks to coordinate civil works with the following types of networks?

	Not at all relevant	Less relevant	Moderately relevant	Very relevant	Mostly relevant	No opinion
Electronic communications networks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gas networks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electricity networks (including public lightning)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heating networks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water networks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport networks (including railways, roads, ports and airports)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

Please explain your answer, identifying differences between fixed and mobile /wireless networks, if relevant.
25. Which factors (for example, mismatch of timing –planning and/or execution-, work techniques, interest in an area), have made coordination of civil works for the deployment of electronic communications networks difficult?
26. To what extent has the obligation to meet requests for coordination of civil works financed by public means been appropriate? Please explain your answer, including whether improvements could be made in regard to the apportioning of costs.
27. Do you consider that the obligation referred to in the previous question should be extended to civil works not financed by public means, or that new measures should be taken in regard to coordination of civil works, with a view to avoiding duplication ("dig once" principle), thereby increasing the efficiency of network deployment and reducing its environmental impact?  Please explain your answer:

### Transparency measures

Pursuant to Article 4 of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive, Member States shall ensure that every undertaking providing or authorised to provide public communications networks has the right to access, upon request to any network operator, minimum information concerning the existing physical infrastructure. Member States may also require every public sector body holding, in electronic format and by reason of its tasks, information concerning the physical infrastructure of a network operator, to make it available via the single information point, while Member States shall require such public sector bodies to make it available, upon request.

Pursuant to Article 6 of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive, Member States shall also require any network operator to make available, upon the specific written request of an undertaking providing or authorised to provide public communications networks, minimum information concerning on-going or planned civil works related to its physical infrastructure for which a permit has been granted, a permit granting procedure is pending or first submission to the competent authorities for permit granting is envisaged in the following six months.

28. In your opinion, to what extent would the availability, through the single information point, of constantly updated information concerning the elements listed in the table be relevant to facilitate network deployment?

	Not relevant at all	Not relevant	Neutral	Relevant	Very relevant	No Opinion
Physical infrastructure from operators of electronic communications networks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical infrastructure from operators of other networks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical infrastructure from public bodies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other elements and facilities suitable to install network elements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private buildings or facilities other than residential and that are not part of a network (e.g. shopping centres, sports facilities, industrial plants /business facilities)	•	•	0	•	•	•
Public buildings or facilities that are not part of a network (e.g. administrative buildings, communal centres)	0	•	•	0	•	•
Civil works in progress or planned by electronic communications operators	0	0	0	0	0	0
Civil works in progress or planned by other network operators	0	0	0	0	0	0
Civil works in progress or planned by public authorities, in the short, medium and long term (such as new or renovated industrial areas)	•	•	0	•	•	•
Acquisition and construction of sites for the deployment of mobile base stations, in progress or planned.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

having this information depends on the deployment area (urban / suburban / rural, business parks, communication routes) or the access technologies (wired /
wireless).
,
29. What minimum information concerning physical infrastructures should be available to operators seeking to deploy electronic communications networks, beyond that specified in Article 4(1) of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive? You can select multiple answers.  None Georeferenced location and/or route
<ul> <li>Total and spare capacity to host network elements (e.g. nr. of ducts, m2 of available space)</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>
Please specify:
Please explain your answer, including the aspects related to cost efficiency.
30. What would be, in your opinion, the best mechanism for ensuring the most appropriate and efficient access to relevant information regarding existing physical infrastructure and planned civil works?
A unique information repository, to be populated by network operators and
public bodies
Federation of existing information repositories, of different network operators and/or public bodies
Federation of existing information repositories, of different network operators
Federation of existing information repositories, of different network operators and/or public bodies
Federation of existing information repositories, of different network operators and/or public bodies  Other

Please explain your answer, and give suggestions for implementation:

31. In your opinion, how could the different administrative levels in a Member State (national, regional, local) collaborate to maximise transparency as regards information on existing physical infrastructures and planned civil works (for example, providing a common platform, defining standards, collecting and validating information)?
Permit-granting procedures

Pursuant to Article 7 of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive, Member States need to ensure that all relevant information on the conditions and procedures for granting civil works permits with a view to deploying electronic communications networks is available from a single information point and that in principle decisions relating to permits have to be made within 4 months. Civil works, as provided in Article 2 (4) of Broadband Cost Reduction Directive 'means every outcome of building or civil engineering works taken as a whole which is sufficient of itself to fulfil an economic or technical function and entails one or more elements of a physical infrastructure'. Concerning the term "permit", the Directive refers to any permit 'concerning the deployment of electronic communications networks or new network elements (...) including building, town planning, environmental and other permits, in order to protect national and Union general interests' (Recital 26).

# 32. To what extent do the following factors affect the complexity and length of permit-granting procedures to deploy or upgrade electronic communications networks?

	Not at all significantly	Not Significantly	Neutral	Significantly	Very Significantly	No Opinion
Non-respect of the deadline to grant all electronic communications network deployment related permits, including those for rights of way.	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lack of information concerning the conditions and procedures applicable for granting permits.			•			•
Application for permits cannot be submitted by electronic means	0	0	0	0	0	0

Multiplicity of permits needed for electronic communications network deployment	©	©	©	•	©	•
Lack of coordination between the various authorities competent for granting permits	©	•	•	•	•	•
Lack of explicit rules including on compensation in case requirements for permit-granting procedures are not met, in particular deadlines and refusal conditions		•	©	•	©	•
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

more or less relevant depending on the network deployment area (urban, semi-
urban or rural areas; business/industrial parks or communication routes, cross-
border regions/areas).

Please explain your response, in particular, whether any of the above factors is

#### 33. To what extent would the following measures streamline the procedures to grant the necessary permits to roll-out electronic communications networks?

	Not significantly at all	Less significantly	Moderately significantly	Significantly	Very Significantly	No Opinion
Allow operators to submit applications by electronic means	•	•	•	•	•	0
Single entry point (one stop shop), acting as an intermediary, routing permit applications to any competent authority (national, regional or local)	•	•	•	•	•	•

Integrated permit granting procedure that encompasses all different procedures of each of the competent authorities involved	•	•	•	•	•	•
Coordination and monitoring by a single body (or set of bodies) of all the involved authorities' permit granting procedures	•	•	•	•	•	•
Centralisation of the competence for all permits in one authority within the Member State	©	•	•	•	•	•

Harmonization of permit procedures at Member State level	•	•	•	•	•	•
Harmonization of permit procedures at EU level	•	•	•	•	•	•
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

Please explain your response, and give suggestions for implementation:
34. Would simplified permit procedures (such as no need to obtain a permit or permit exemption, tacit approval in the event that a certain deadline is exceeded, prior-communication accompanied by ex-post verifications only, etc) be appropriate to facilitate certain types of network deployment (e.g. technological upgrades, low impact installations, etc)?
Please explain your response, including which simplified procedures would be relevant for which type of network deployments:
35. In your view, are there specific obstacles to the joint roll-out of electronic communications networks and to different forms of network sharing (e.g. sharing of passive or active elements of a network)?.
If your answer is yes, what are these obstacles and should there be any measures taken to further facilitate these forms of cooperation?

#### Environmental impact of electronic communications networks

In its Communication on a European Green Deal (<u>A European Green Deal- COM(2019) 640</u>), the European Commission has pointed out that digital technologies are a critical enabler for attaining its sustainability goals in many different sectors. At the same time, the digital sector itself needs to put sustainability at its heart and undergo its own green transformation, including in particular by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to address climate change. To support this effort, the Commission is assessing the need for more stringent sustainability measures when deploying and operating electronic communications networks.

36. Do you consider that the deployment and/or operation of electronic communications networks can have a negative impact on the environment, in particular due to emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases?

	Not at all significant	Less significant	Moderately significant	Significant	Very significant	No opinion
Deployment of fixed networks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operation of fixed networks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deployment of mobile/wireless networks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operation of mobile /wireless networks	0	0	0	0	0	0

PΙ	Please explain your answer for each of the above categories:						

## 37. What are the factors that determine the environmental impact resulting from the deployment of electronic communications networks?

	No contribution at all	No significant contribution	Neutral	Some contribution	Significant contribution	No opinion
Deployment techniques, e.g. type of trenching	0	0	0	0	0	0
Type of networks, e.g. fixed or wireless/mobile	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing of the equipment, materials used and logistics	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0

PΙ	Please explain your answer(s):						

38. What are the factors that most contribute to greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the operation of electronic communications networks (without considering end-user equipment)?

	No contribution at all	No significant contribution	Neutral	Some contribution	Significant contribution	No opinion
Energy efficiency (e.g. energy consumed per unit of service delivered)	•	©	0	©	•	0
Carbon intensity of energy sources used for the generation of power supplying the network	•	©	0	©	©	0
Other (please specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ple	ease explain your answer(s):		

### 39. What could be appropriate criteria to qualify network deployment projects as 'environmentally sustainable', already before such deployments have started?

	Not at all appropriate	Not appropriate	Neutral	Appropriate	Very appropriate	No opinion
Medium used (for fixed), e.g. fibre, copper, cable	0	0	0	0	0	0
Technology generation used (for mobile), e.g. 4G/5G	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy efficiency of network equipment used	0	0	0	0	0	0
Passively shared network	0	0	0	0	0	0
Actively shared network	0	0	0	0	0	0
Network deployed with coordinated civil works with other networks (electronic communications, electricity, gas, etc.)	•	•	•	•	•	•
Other (please specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0

	No incentive	Weak incentive	Moderate incentive	Considerable incentive	Strong incentiv
Expedited administrative treatment of all permits related to the deployment of the specific network	0	0	0	•	0
Permit requirements limited to prior communication only	0	0	0	0	0
Reduction or abolishment of permit fees related to the deployment of the specific network	0	0	0	0	0
Reduction or abolishment of access fees related to the deployment of the specific network for physical infrastructure that is owned or controlled by public bodies/authorities	0	•	0	©	0
Other (please specify)	0	0	0	0	0

Please explain your answer(s):

According to Articles 10 and 11 of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive, Member States need to appoint one or more bodies to provide information on physical infrastructure, civil works and permits and one or more independent bodies to resolve disputes between network operators regarding access to infrastructure, access to information and requests to coordinate civil works. Moreover, Member States shall lay down appropriate, effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties applicable to infringements of national measures adopted pursuant to the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive.

### 41. In your opinion, to what extent is the dispute settlement system provided in the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive appropriate, concerning:

	Not appropriate at all	Not appropriate	Neutral	Appropriate	Very appropriate	No opinion
Access to existing physical infrastructure (Art. 3)	0	0	0	•	•	•
Transparency concerning physical infrastructure (Art. 4)	©	•	0	•	•	0
Coordination of civil works (Art. 5)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transparency concerning planned civil works (Art. 6)	0	0	0	•	•	•
Access to in- building physical infrastructure (Art. 9)	0	0	0	•	0	•

	Not relevant	Not relevant	Neutral	Relevant	Very Relevant	No opinio
Non-compliance with Broadband Cost Reduction Directive deadlines to solve a dispute resolution process	at all	©	©	•	©	0
Too long dispute resolution process	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of rules on apportioning the cost (in case of coordination of civil works, Art. 5)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of clarity on "fair and reasonable terms' concept (Art. 3 and 5)	0	0	0	0	0	0
The need for payment of fees when referring a case to the Dispute Settlement Body	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other reasons	0	0	0	0	0	0
ease explain your answer(s	<u> </u>	following	measure	s to guara	antee a	
tisfactory dispute resolution	n process					
	Not relevant at all	Not relevant	Neutral	Relevant	Very relevant	No opinio
Imposing penalties on the dispute resolution body if			<b>O</b>	0		0

deadline

Setting rules on apportioning the cost (in case of coordination of civil works, Art. 5)	0				©	0		0
Guaranteeing a free process.	0 (	0	0		0	0		0
Other	0	0	0		0	0		0
ease explain your answer(s):	:							
. , , ,								
Not useful at all Not useful Neutral								
useful Very useful No opinion In case you reply that the neful, the reasons are:	national penal	ty mecha	anisr	n is	not us	eful at	all d	or no
<ul><li>Very useful</li><li>No opinion</li><li>In case you reply that the n</li></ul>	national penal		anisr	n is	not us No opi		all d	or no
<ul><li>Very useful</li><li>No opinion</li><li>In case you reply that the n</li></ul>		Y					all (	or no
Very useful No opinion In case you reply that the neful, the reasons are:	en applied	Y	es	No			all d	or no
Very useful No opinion In case you reply that the neful, the reasons are:  The penalty mechanism has not bee	en applied nts is broad and ge	Y	es	No O			all d	or no
Very useful No opinion In case you reply that the neful, the reasons are:  The penalty mechanism has not been the regulation providing infringements.	en applied nts is broad and ge	Y eneral	es	No O		inion	all d	or no
Very useful No opinion In case you reply that the neful, the reasons are: The penalty mechanism has not been the regulation providing infringement the penalties imposed are not dissu	en applied nts is broad and ge asive enough	Y eneral	es	No O	No opi	inion	all o	or no

#### Legal instrument

46. In your opinion, how appropriate has been the choice of a Directive as a legal instrument to regulate the measures to reduce the cost of deploying electronic communications networks?

Not appropriate at all

ease explain your answer:						
7. In your opinion, what wou viewing the Broadband Cos			-	gal instr	ument wh	ien
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	No opinior
Directive with minimum harmonization (similar to the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive)	0	•	•	0	0	0
Directive with maximum harmonization	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other instrument	0	0	0	0	0	0
ease explain your answer(s	):					
nal comments						

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55