REGULATING FOR NEXT GENERATION ACCESS

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Why I am here

- To give you a bit of an overview of where we are in the EU deliberations on Next Generation Access;
- To sound a warning bell
- To galvanise a policy discussion

Agenda

- A bit of Background

- Framework Review

- Recommendation on Next Generation Access

A bit of Background

- Why we had a Framework in the first place
- The need for ex-ante regulation
- Technology neutral approach
- New Markets / New Technologies
- three criteria test…..

Framework Review

- Where we are
- Specific proposals
- Rocks on the Road

Where we are

- Two Directives, a Regulation and a Recommendation
- Adopted in November 2007
- Recommendation on effect
- Currently in Council and European Parliament
- Progress Report to Ministers on Thursday (Telecoms Council);
- EP Committee (ITRE, IMCO) in July
- First Plenary EP Reading in September
- Common Position in November (French Presidency)
- Second Reading / Final Agreement; March 2009 (Czech Presidency)
- Entry into force; late 2010

Specific Proposals

- Commission proposals limited to Recommendation and information requirements (Article 5, FW)
- Council "recitals" on investment / access
- UK proposed technology neutral approach (fibre / copper / wireless) in Access directive
- ITRE (Trautman and others) proposals (recitals) to limit access regulation in line with investment; favour infrastructure competition;
- Sunset for ex-ante regulation

Rocks on the Road

- Differential access regulation for fibre;
- Damaging trade off investment / access regulation / functional separation
- Regulation affecting / limiting business models
- Sunset for ex-ante regulation

Recommendation on Next Generation Access

- Has been long on expectation
- Expect Commission to publish it before Summer
- Will be considered in Communications Committee (COCOM);
- Advisory procedure ………
- Expected to focus on economic importance
- And to stress importance of access regulation for different business models of fibre deployment (VDSL; passive, point to point);

Questions and Discussion

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