



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Federal Communications Commission ComCom

BSG Annual Conference 2016

The UK telecoms landscape after Brexit

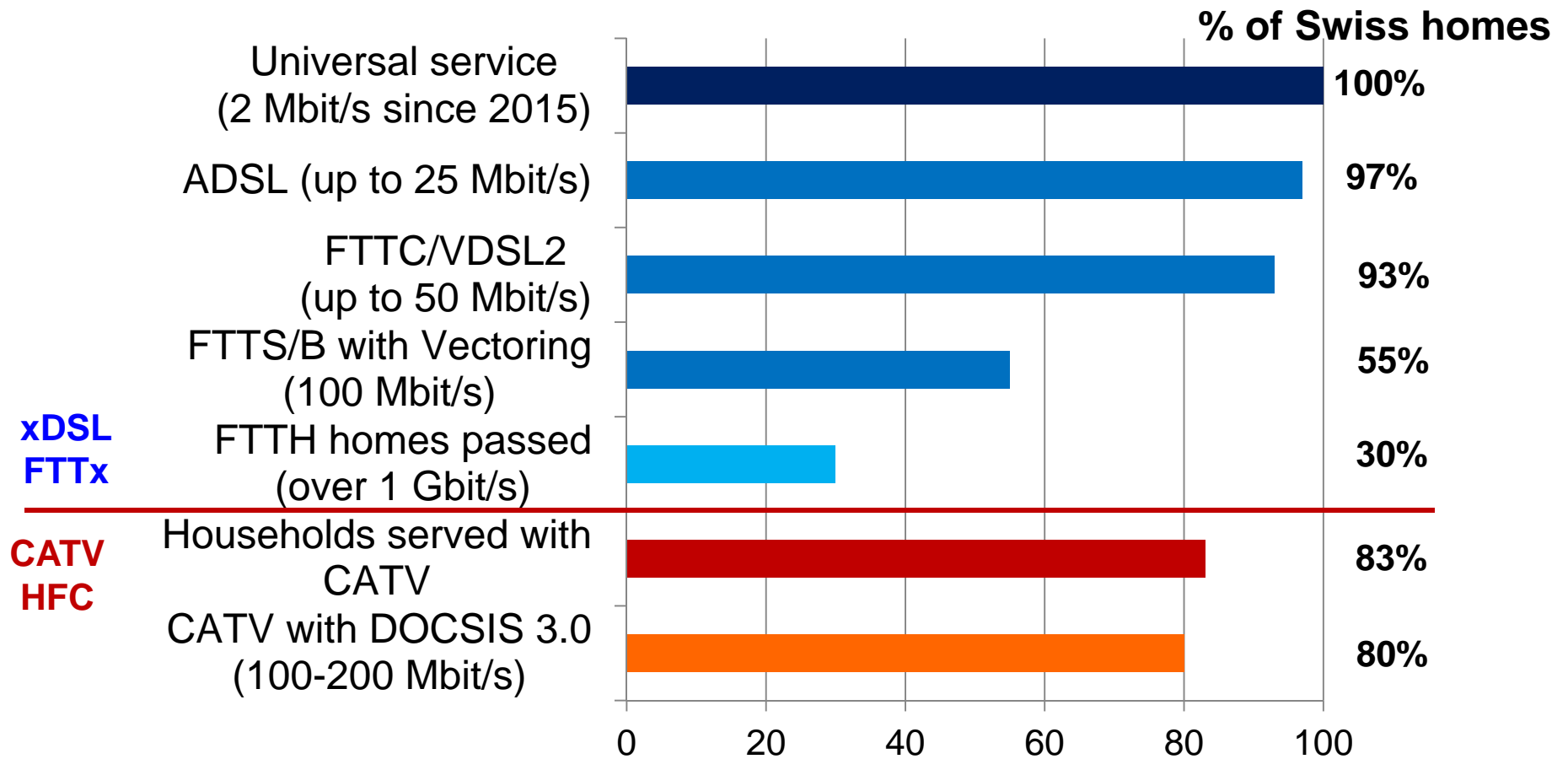
Keynote speech by Marc Furrer,
President of the Swiss telecom regulatory authority ComCom

techUK, 10 St Bride's Street, London
31 October 2016



Switzerland not member of the EU, still a leader in high broadband

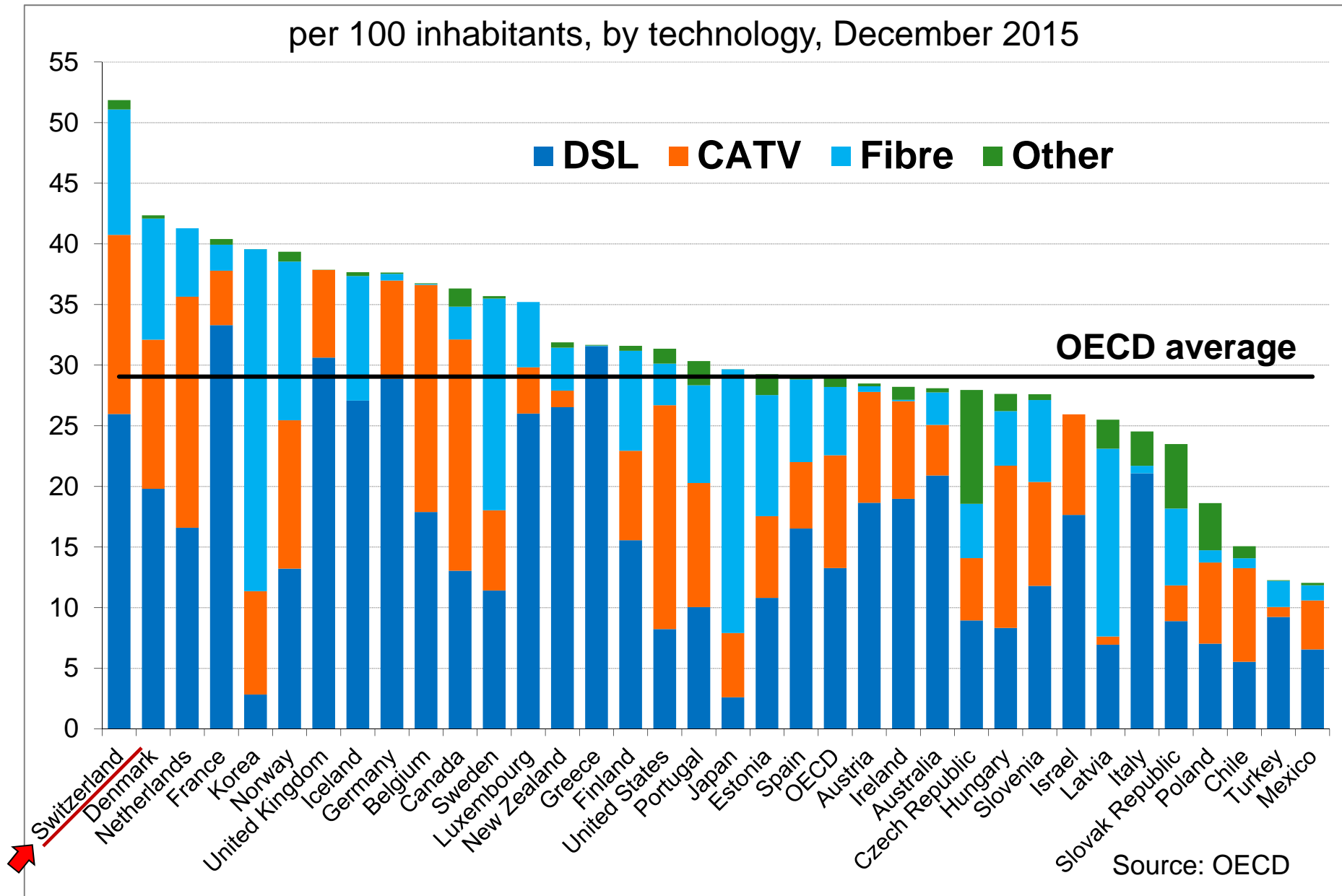
Today's high broadband coverage in Switzerland





Fixed broadband subscriptions in OECD countries

per 100 inhabitants, by technology, December 2015

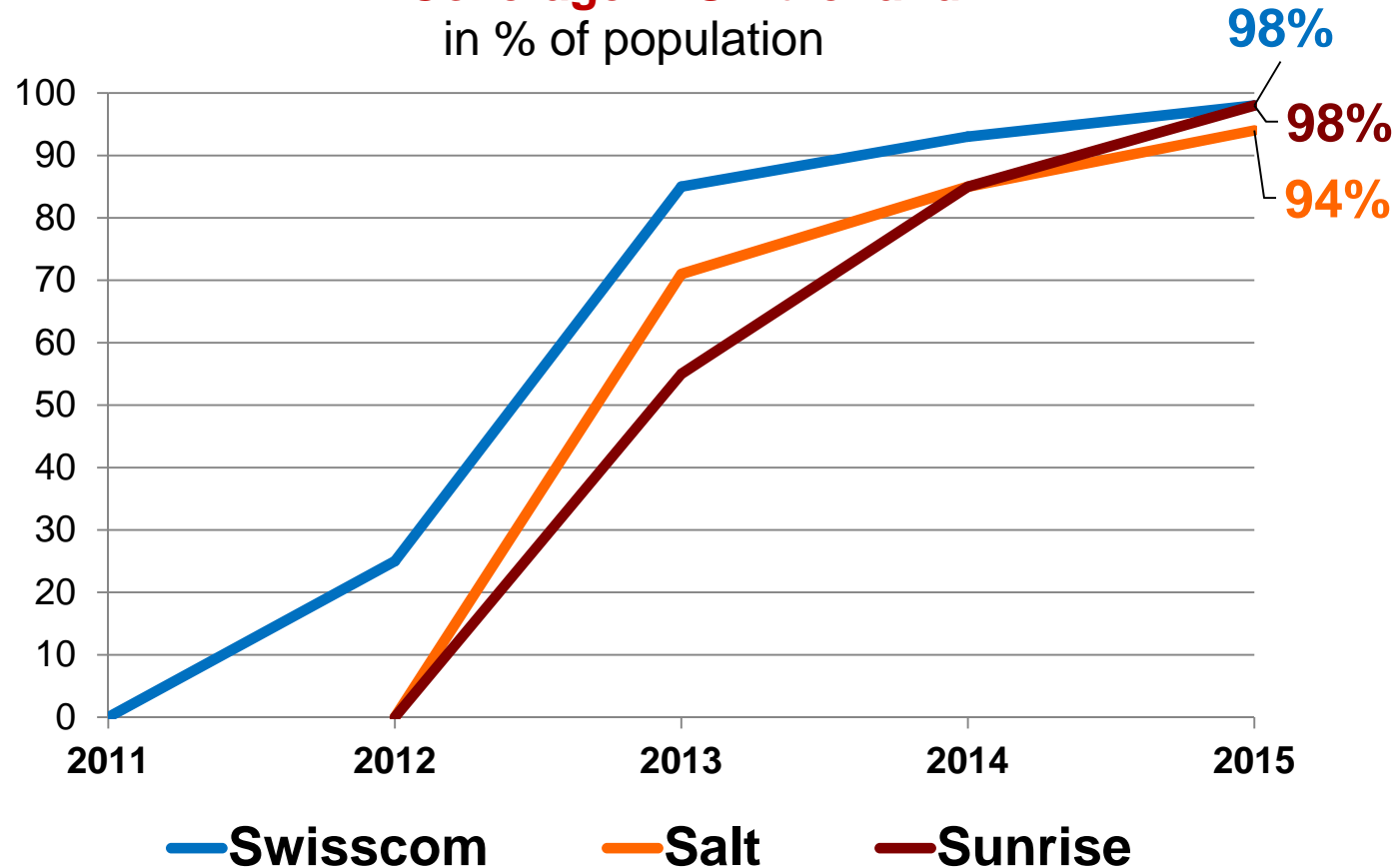


Source: OECD



Mobile communications: excellent LTE coverage everywhere in Switzerland

LTE Coverage in Switzerland
in % of population



➔ Rollout of **LTE-Advanced** has started in 2015 (300 Mbit/s)



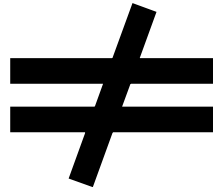
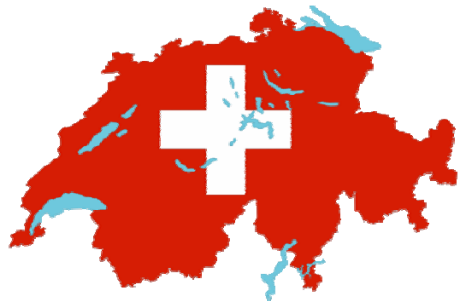
How?

- **Use the freedom of independence in setting the rules**
- **Coordinate with other governments and regulators**



Independence

different legal framework than in EU



For example in the case of **access regulation**:

- Ex-post regulation in Switzerland vs. ex-ante in EU
- Primacy of negotiation
- No regulation of fibre access lines

Today: only copper lines can be regulated, if there is an operator with significant market power (SMP)



Coordination

- **Switzerland** is an **active observer in BEREC** and a member in BEREC's working groups:
 - ⇒ Position "de facto" like a EU member state
- **Member of IRG** (Independent Regulators Group, Brussels)
 - ⇒ ComCom is a founding member of IRG
- ➔ **Advantages:** *exchange of views and experiences, being informed about new developments, influencing decisions*
- **Member of ECC** (Electronic Communications Committee; CEPT)
e.g. working on a joint European position for the WRC
- **Member of RSPG** (Radio Spectrum Policy Group) and **ComCo** as representative of Liechtenstein (EEA, European Economic Area)



Access to telecom market

- **By WTO GATS**
- **Access to free movement of persons**
 - important for recruitment of telecom/ICT specialists
- **By special bilateral agreements with EU**
 - **New rules also for market access of electrical devices:**
Procedures and institutions for conformity assessment have to be settled with EU so that UK products have access to EU market, also collaboration regarding market surveillance needed



Conclusions

Positive:

Swiss telecom market has well developed outside the EU by:

- using the utmost cooperation with European telecom bodies (BEREC, IRG, ECC, etc.)
- creating its own framework for opening the telecom market without instructions (and supervision) by the EU Commission
- using the strength of the Swiss economy



Conclusions

Handicaps:

- No roaming agreement with EU (no “roam like at home”) (EU = internal market)

Switzerland: full roaming charges

Agreement with EU not possible (waterbed effect !)

- No direct influence on the telecom framework of the EU (but also no obligation to follow the EU rules; different to EEA states)



Conclusions for UK

Get prepared!

- Market access GATS WTO
- Science and knowledge access
 - ⇒ agreement on cooperation amongst universities and labs (e.g. EU Research and Innovation programme “*Horizon 2020*”)
- Ensure active participation amongst regulators (BEREC, IRG)

Elaborate your own telecom framework

- ⇒ Take from the EU framework, what is best for the British market. For the rest you are free.

Coordinate with the industry

so that you can keep the big pace for investment

- ⇒ incentives
- ⇒ legal certainty

Stay self confident





Thank you!

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