

PRESS RELEASE

CERRE publishes key recommendations for the future of European telecommunications' regulation

Brussels, 23 September 2024 - CERRE has unveiled its latest report, "[Ideas for the Future of European Telecommunications Regulations](#)", which features 10 strategic recommendations aimed at guiding Europe's telecom sector toward greater competitiveness, innovation, and resilience.

Addressing pressing regulatory challenges that will shape the future of the industry, these recommendations reflect the authors' independent vision for the European telecom market. They aim at achieving the Digital Decade targets and the objectives pursued by the Letta and Draghi reports, particularly in fostering infrastructure investment, harmonizing regulations, and supporting 5G deployment. Presented at [a recent event](#) attended by **Enrico Letta**, the recommendations also contribute to a broader European vision of digital sovereignty and regulatory cohesion.

*"Europe's telecom landscape is at a turning point", said **Bruno Liebhaberg**, CERRE's Executive Chairman. "The recommendations of this report aim to support at the same time the telecom operators' ongoing adaptation to new technologies and consumer expectations, and sustainable competition. It's about creating a regulatory framework that thrives innovation and consolidation. I am also glad to note that the general message of the report is very much in line with President Ursula von der Leyen's mission letter to Executive Vice President-designate Henna Virkkunen. As such, our independent think tank's contribution should usefully inform the upcoming work of the Commission."*

Key recommendations

The CERRE report outlines a practical roadmap that helps Europe navigate the rapidly evolving telecom environment. Among the 10 recommendations, the following stand out:

- **Targeting Bottlenecks Over Market Power:** The report recommends shifting regulation from focusing solely on market power (SMP) to targeting infrastructure bottlenecks. *"This is about recognizing that market power in telecoms is becoming more localized,"* said **Alexandre de Streel**, CERRE's Academic Director. *"A more tailored approach will ensure effective competition, even in markets where more than one operator exists."*
- **Promoting Infrastructure Investment:** With the accelerated shift from copper to fibre networks, CERRE advocates for public subsidies to accelerate fibre adoption and avoid the inefficient duplication of networks. Instead of compulsory EU targets, the report emphasizes the need for a framework that stimulates operators to retire copper and invest in future-proof technologies like fibre.
- **Net Neutrality and 5G Innovation:** As 5G transforms the telecom landscape, the report highlights the need to update net neutrality rules or their interpretation to accommodate innovations like network slicing, ensuring that telecom operators can fully realize the 5G's potential. This is in line with Europe's broader goals for a competitive and future-ready digital market.



- **Spectrum Policy Overhaul:** The report's authors recommend much longer duration for spectrum licence coupled with a 'use it or lose it' approach, allowing operators to hold longer-term licenses while ensuring they efficiently use the spectrum they are assigned.
- **Dynamic Approach to Mergers and Competition Law:** Without calling for changes to EU competition law fundamentals, the report advocates for a more dynamic approach to the merger and antitrust regime. It emphasizes that network and infrastructure-sharing agreements could be approved more easily and that the implications of mergers on security, resilience and sustainability need to be balanced, even if these objectives may sometimes conflict.

For further information, you can access the full [CERRE](#) report here: [Ideas for the Future of European Telecommunications Regulations](#)

Expert Contributions

The authors of this report are the following CERRE leading experts: **Alexandre de Streel, Richard Feasey, Peter Alexiadis, Marc Bourreau, Martin Cave, Ilsa Godlovitch, Antonio Manganelli, Giorgio Monti, Tony Shortall, and Paul Timmers**. Their combined knowledge provides a comprehensive perspective on the future of European telecom regulation.

About CERRE

The Centre on Regulation in Europe (CERRE) is a Brussels-based, not-for-profit think tank dedicated to promoting robust and consistent regulation across network and digital industries, including the technology, media, telecom, energy, sustainability and mobility sectors. Its members include regulatory authorities, companies, and universities, reflecting a multi-sector approach. CERRE is also distinguished by its multi-disciplinary team's academic credentials and policy experience, as well as by its unwavering commitment to scientific independence and impartiality. Through high-quality studies and engaging debates involving its members, policy makers and the civil society, CERRE delivers decisive contributions to the advancement of efficient regulation in Europe and beyond.

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