

PRESS RELEASE

BEREC 4th Stakeholder forum Enhancing connectivity and innovation in Europe

On the 17th of October, BEREC will hold its 4th Stakeholder forum in Brussels. This major event in the telecoms sector will focus on BERECs work programme for 2017 as well as the ongoing review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications. In this context, the forum will be provide an opportunity to discuss two important issues: providing connectivity to every European citizen and facilitating the development of the digital economy. Around 220 participants are expected to attend the forum and interact with speakers, including many from the telecoms and digital environments.

Solutions to provide connectivity to every citizen

Providing connectivity to every citizen is a top-priority which was recently reasserted by the European Commission. Investments from operators as well as innovative solutions to facilitate the roll-outs are key to cope with end users' rapidly changing needs. The first roundtable will provide an opportunity to analyse solutions and question the role regulation has to play in them.

The first panel of speakers, moderated by Sharon White, Chief Executive of British regulator Ofcom, will provide their views on these issues:

- **Pilar del Castillo**, Member of the European Parliament;
- **Eelco Blok**, CEO of Dutch operator KPN;
- **Xavier Niel**, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors & Chief Strategy Officer of Iliad;
- **Sam Crawford**, Founder of SamKnows

Empowering the digital economy - what role does investment and regulation play?

The development of the digital economy is also subject to intense attention. This fast-changing environment is a source of innovation, new actors and new services. As the debate on net neutrality has shown it is also a source of many regulatory challenges. As well as that, it provides an opportunity to question the

impact of regulation and investments on this sector and their role as enhancers of innovation.

Together with the main developments in the sector, this issue will be one of the main topics discussed during the second roundtable.

Speakers at this roundtable, moderated by Johannes Gungl, Managing Director of Austrian regulator RTR, will include:

- **Gavin Patterson**, CEO of BT Group;
- **Martin Kaiser**, VP Services division at Hager Group;
- **Annina Koskiola**, CEO of Proximi.io;
- and **Winston Maxwell**, renowned expert in net neutrality.

During the different roundtables, the forum will also gather views from the participants on the BEREC work programme for 2017 which will mainly focus on connectivity challenges, open internet and the framework review.

Wilhelm Eschweiler, 2016 BEREC Chair, and Sébastien Soriano, BEREC Chair for 2017, will give opening remarks. Commissioner Oettinger will close the forum.

The event is open to the public and will be streamed live on the BEREC website. Everyone is invited to participate and ask the speakers questions via Twitter #BERECforum.

Link to the agenda: http://bereg.europa.eu/eng/events/bereg_events_2016/124-4th-bereg-stakeholder-forum-meeting