

## REGULATION

### European Commission consults on State Aid Rules for the Deployment of Broadband Networks

Source: European Commission

The European Commission launched a public consultation on existing EU state aid rules applicable to public support for the deployment of broadband networks. The public consultation is part of an overall evaluation by the Commission of the relevant rules with a view to assess whether they are still fit purpose or whether they will need to be updated in light of recent technological and market developments. All interested parties can respond to the public consultation until 5 January 2021. [\[read more\]](#).

### Stakeholders Jockey for Influence in EU's bid to Regulate Digital Services

Source: Euractiv

A broad spectrum of stakeholders has spoken out on EU plans to regulate the online ecosystem as part of its forthcoming Digital Services Act (DSA) package, with fierce jockeying over the extent to which the EU will introduce new rules for the digital economy. [\[read more\]](#).

### Gatekeeper Platforms shouldn't control Europe's Online Marketplaces

Source: Euractiv

Europe's online marketplaces should not be controlled by a handful of dominant gatekeeper platforms, the EU's digital chief Margarethe Vestager has said, referring to her bid to

reign in the market dominance of tech giants through the EU's forthcoming new competition tool. [\[read more\]](#).

### EU Top Court decides that Zero-Rated Offers prioritising certain Internet Traffic are incompatible with Net Neutrality Rules

Source: Cullen International

The Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) decided that zero rating offers by internet access service providers, which allow end users to use zero-rated applications and services without any restrictions even after the exhaustion of their data allowance, while slowing down or blocking other internet traffic, are incompatible with article 3(2) and 3(3) of the Telecom Single Market Regulation. [\[read more\]](#) – subscription required].

### EU Parliament Internal Market Committee adopts Report on the Digital Services Act

Source: Cullen International

The European Parliament Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) committee adopted on 28 September 2020 its report "Digital Services Act - Improving the functioning of the Single Market". [\[read more\]](#) – subscription required].

### BEREC adopts Guidelines on Very High Capacity Networks, opens Consultations on Geographical Surveys and 2021 Work Programme

Source: BEREC

These BEREC Guidelines, designed in accordance with Article 82 of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC), are drafted to provide guidance to NRAs 'on the criteria that a network is to fulfil in order to be considered a very high capacity network, in particular in terms of down- and uplink bandwidth, resilience, error-related parameters, and latency and its variation' (Art. 82). NRAs shall take these Guidelines into utmost account. The Guidelines shall contribute to the harmonisation of the definition of the term 'very high capacity network' in the EU. [[read more](#)].

## 5G

### UK readies 700 MHz Band for 5G Auction in January

Source: Policy Tracker

The UK has completed the four-year process of clearing spectrum previously used by broadcasting ahead of auctioning it to mobile network operators (MNOs) early next year. [[read more](#) – subscription required].

### Austria completes delayed 5G Tender

Source: Policy Tracker

Austria's second 5G auction, which was postponed due to COVID-19, was completed this week, bringing in proceeds of almost €202 million. A total of 27 blocks were up for sale, consisting of six blocks in the 700 MHz band, 12 in the 2100 MHz band and nine in the 1500 MHz band. [[read more](#) – subscription required].

### UAE assigns 26 GHz Band to Mobile Operators

Source: Policy Tracker

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) regulator has assigned the 26 GHz band for 5G, becoming the first country in the Middle

East to award mmWave spectrum. [[read more](#) – subscription required].

### France auctions the 3.5 GHz Band for €2.8 Billion

Source: Policy Tracker

France's unusual 5G auction concluded yesterday, raising close to €2.8 billion from the sale of the 3490 - 3800 MHz frequency range. [[read more](#) – subscription required].

### Survey: Europeans positive on 5G

Source: Advanced Television

Europeans are positive about 5G, they believe it will improve their user experience and intend to deploy it to empower their own business, according to a new pan-European 5G sentiment survey from telecoms association ETNO. [[read more](#)].

### Greece auctions 700 MHz, 2.1 GHz, 3.4-3.8 GHz and 26 GHz Bands for 5G

Source: Cullen International

The Greek telecoms regulator, EETT, published the tender documents for its multi-band 5G auction, offering the 700 MHz, 2.1 GHz, 3.4-3.8 GHz and 26 GHz bands. [[read more](#) – subscription required].

## POSTAL SERVICES

### Royal Mail: 1.1 Billion fewer Letters

Source: Post & Parcel

Royal Mail plc has announced a trading update covering the five months ended 30 August 2020 showing parcel volumes up 34% but letter revenue down 21%. [[read more](#)].

## **ERGP calls for Powers to control the Impact of Large Online Platforms on Postal Markets**

Source: *Cullen International*

Postal regulators believe that regulatory powers are needed to control the impact of very large online platforms on competition in the postal market. [[read more](#) – subscription required].

## **Amazon must register as Postal Service Provider in Spain**

Source: *Cullen International*

In a decision of 24 September 2020, the Spanish postal regulator, CNMC, declared that Amazon offers a postal parcel delivery service in Spain and must request inclusion in the postal operators' register managed by the Ministry of Transport and Mobility (MITMA) within one month. [[read more](#) – subscription required].

## **Commission approves Spain's USO Compensation to Correos for 2011-2020**

Source: *Cullen International*

A European Commission decision of 14 May 2020 approved a €1.280bn compensation by the Spanish State to Correos for delivering its universal postal service obligation (USO) during the period 2011-2020. [[read more](#) – subscription required].

## **Royal Mail invests in more Parcel Sorting Machines as Parcel Volumes continue to rise**

Source: *Post & Parcel*

Royal Mail has agreed to buy four new fully-automated parcel sorting machines to speed up the processing of parcels in its mail centres. The cutting-edge technology will expand Royal Mail's parcel processing capacity, with each machine able to process around 180,000 parcels per day and up to 10,000 parcels per hour. [[read more](#) – subscription required].

## **BIPT validates Bpost 's Tariffs increased for 2021 but continues to criticise the Price Cap Formula**

Source: *Cullen International*

BIPT, the Belgian regulator, validated bpost's increased retail tariffs for 2021, stating that the increase complies with the legal principles of tariff uniformity, non-discrimination and transparency. [[read more](#) – subscription required].

## **Sweden: PTS requests PostNord to provide further Clarification on its Alternate Day Delivery Pilot**

Source: *Cullen International*

PTS, the Swedish postal regulator, is asking PostNord, the universal service provider, to submit a clarification regarding the USP's ongoing pilot of alternate day delivery. [[read more](#) – subscription required].

## ACM approves Tariffs for Basic Set of Postal Services

Source: ACM

The Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM) has approved Dutch postal operator PostNL's proposal for the tariffs of the basic set of postal services for 2021. PostNL will increase stamp prices from EUR 0.91 to 0.96. That price falls within the headroom that is calculated on the basis of statutory rules. These rules stipulate that ACM will approve the tariffs if these tariffs fall within the calculated tariff headroom. [\[read more – subscription required\]](#).

### TELEVISION

## Spain: End to DTT simulcasts

Source: Advanced Television

DTT Simulcast transmissions came to an end in Spain between October 1st and 14th with around 20 per cent of SMATV-equipped buildings in the country still to be refitted. [\[read more\]](#).

### ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

## Ofcom set to probe BT over Broadband Charges in Remote Areas

Source: Total Telecom

On 16th October 2020, Ofcom launched an investigation into BT over the prices it quoted rural customers to obtain broadband. [\[read more\]](#).