

REGULATION

European Commission launches assessment of extending rules prohibiting geo-blocking to copyright content

Source: *Cullen International*

The European Commission has initiated its assessment of the possible extension of the scope of the Geo-blocking Regulation to cover copyright-related services [[read more – subscription required](#)].

SPECTRUM

Belgian regulator presses on with plan to attract new operator

Source: *PolicyTracker*

Belgium is planning to hold an auction next year of spectrum for 5G (700, 1400 and 3600 MHz bands) and an auction of spectrum where current licences expire in March 2021 (900, 1800 and 2100 MHz bands). The government has said it wants to encourage a fourth mobile operator to enter the market [[read more – subscription required](#)].

INNOVATION

Google ‘taking AI to the next level’ to cut data centre energy use

Source: *Euractiv*

Google is now allowing its artificial intelligence (AI) system to directly control its data centre cooling system as a way of lowering emissions and energy consumption [[read more](#)].

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Hungarian competition authority closes investigation into cable merger

Source: *Cullen International*

The Hungarian national competition authority closed an ex post merger control investigation into the acquisition by cable operator Digi of competitor Greencom’s business in twenty Hungarian towns in August 2017 [[read more – subscription required](#)].

TELEVISION

Italy to raise DTT fees for broadcasters?

Source: *Advanced Television*

Italian newspaper Milano Finanza reports that Italy’s new government is considering raising the fees levied for the nation’s free digital multiplexes and their associated terrestrial channels [[read more](#)].

Strategy Analytics: US pay-TV subscribers down, OTT up

Source: *Broadband TV News*

Strategy Analytics’ analysis of pay TV subscriber numbers shows Virtual Multichannel Video Programming Distributor (vMVPDs) with 868K net adds in Q2 2018 bringing the total number of vMVPD subscribers to 6.73M, up 119% YoY [[read more](#)].