

**The Danish governments reply to the draft:**

**“Community Guidelines for the application of State aid rules in relation to rapid deployment of broadband networks”**

The Danish government welcomes the enhanced focus on broadband in general and NGA in specific.

The Danish government recognises the importance of increased broadband connectivity in the continuing social and economic development of the European Union.

The Danish government supports the use of regulatory measures to accelerate the investment cycle. The Danish government is of the opinion that this does not involve the use of state aid as described in paragraph **55-56** of the proposed guidelines.

Concerning paragraph **63-69** it is the principal opinion of the Danish government, that the roll out of broadband, including NGA, should be based on two basic principles:

- Development of broadband infrastructure should be driven by the market. Infrastructure must be developed on a competitive basis without the use of public funding.
- Regulation of the market should be technology neutral. The market should make the choice on technology.

It is the opinion of the Danish government that the competition on the broadband market in Denmark is well-functioning and that the use of public funding to the deployment of NGA-networks is not necessary.

It is the opinion of the Danish government that there currently is no basis for concluding that all citizens necessarily should have access to a fiber connection or advanced cable networks. The Danish government expects that there will be a need and demand for both fixed connections and mobile technologies. The Commission’s approach is too narrow by only focusing on fiber and cable networks. This is not consistent with the principle of technological neutrality.

Ministry of Science  
Technology and Innovation  
Bredgade 43  
DK-1260 Copenhagen  
Phone +45 3392 9700  
Fax +45 3332 3501  
E-mail vt@vtu.dk  
Website www.vtu.dk  
CVR-no. 1680 5408  
  
Doc id.  
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If however public funding should be used in the deployment of NGA-networks the Danish government welcomes the requirement that such networks should be open to third parties as described in paragraph **74**.