

Digital Single Market

Telecoms Rules

EU law covers fixed and wireless telecoms, internet, broadcasting and transmission services.



The EU's [regulatory framework for electronic communications](#) [1] is a series of rules which apply throughout the EU Member States. It encourages competition, improves the functioning of the market and [guarantees basic user rights](#) [2]. The overall goal is for European consumers to be able to benefit from increased choice thanks to low prices, high quality and innovative services. EU law has helped the prices of telecoms' services fall by around 30% in the past decade. The rules are simple, flexible, technology-neutral and aim at deregulation in the longer term.

The rules were updated in 2009 to take into account the developments in this area and transposed into national legislation in the 27 Member States on 25 May 2011. The Commission monitors [the timely and correct implementation](#) [3] of these rules.

The current telecoms rules are currently under review, via the so-called "[connectivity package](#) [4]" launched on September 2016. The Commission proposed a new [European Electronic Communications](#)

[Code](#) [5] including forward-looking and simplified rules that make it more attractive for all companies to invest in new top-quality infrastructures, everywhere in the EU, both locally and across national borders.

The content carried over electronic communications networks is regulated by [audiovisual media services' rules](#) [6].

The relevant laws

The framework is made of a package of **5 Directives** (unofficially consolidated versions) and **2 Regulations**:

- The [Framework Directive](#) [7] is based on the [Framework Directive 2002/21/EC](#) and [8] the [Better Regulation Directive 2009/140/EC](#) [9]
- The [Access Directive](#) [10] is based on the [Access Directive 2002/19/EC](#) [11] and the [Better Regulation Directive 2009/140/EC](#) [9]
- The [Authorisation Directive](#) [12] is based on the [Authorisation Directive 2002/20/EC](#) and [13] the [Better Regulation Directive 2009/140/EC](#) [9]
- The [Universal Service Directive](#) [14] is based on the [Universal Service Directive 2002/22/EC](#) [15] and the [Citizens' Rights Directive 2009/136/EC](#) [16]
- The [Directive on Privacy and Electronic Communications](#) [17] is based on the [Directive on Privacy and Electronic Communications 2002/58/EC](#), [18] the [Amending Directive 2006/24/EC](#) [19] and the [Citizens' Rights Directive 2009/136/EC](#) [16]
- The [Regulation on Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications \(BEREC\)](#) [20]
- The [Regulation on roaming on public mobile communications networks](#) [21]

Team responsible

[DG CONNECT](#) [22]

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[1] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/Copy%20of%20Regulatory%20Framework%20for%20Electronic%20Communications%202013%20NO%20CROPS.pdf>

[2] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/node/35>

[3] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/node/349>

[4] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/connectivity-european-gigabit-society>

[5] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/news-redirect/34112>

[6] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/revision-audiovisual-media-services-directive-avmsd>

[7] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/140framework_5.pdf

[8] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32002L0021:en:NOT>

[9] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32009L0140:en:NOT>

[10] http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/140access_1.pdf

[11] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32002L0019:EN:NOT>

[12] http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/140authorisation_2.pdf

- [13] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32002L0020:en:NOT>
- [14] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/Directive%202002%2022%20EC_0.pdf
- [15] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32002L0022:en:NOT>
- [16] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32009L0136:en:NOT>
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- [21] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32012R0531:EN:NOT>
- [22] https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/communications-networks-content-and-technology_en