



Republic of Cyprus

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**DEPUTY MINISTRY OF RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND DIGITAL POLICY**

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**DEPARTMENT OF  
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**E COMMISSIONER  
OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Office of the Commissioner  
for Electronic Communications  
and Postal Regulation

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## **National roadmap for the implementation of the Connectivity Toolbox in Cyprus**

**29 April 2021**

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## INTRODUCTION

### *Scope:*

In March 2021, the European Commission published the Connectivity Toolbox<sup>1</sup> of best practices (BP) proposed by Member States to address the two main areas of reducing deployment costs and ensuring access to 5G radio spectrum. The toolbox is the main outcome of the Connectivity Toolbox Recommendation<sup>2</sup> published in 2020. According to the Connectivity Toolbox, member states should develop, by the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, a national roadmap for the implementation of the Toolbox, using it to the utmost extent, while selecting or adapting proposed measures, where necessary, according to national circumstances.

### *Methodology:*

In order to develop the national roadmap for Cyprus, the Department of Electronic Communications of the Deputy Ministry Research, Innovation and Digital Policy in close cooperation with the Office of the Commissioner of Electronic Communications (OCECPR), considered appropriate to consult with Electronic Communication Network Operators (ECN) operators (Cyta, EPIC, Cablenet and Primetel) requesting their views on the usefulness of each proposed BP in Cyprus, as well as on priorities to be set for each particular BP (particularly for the BPs that are not already implemented). The results of the consultation were taken into account in developing the national roadmap.

The national roadmap (i) presents an initial assessment as to the usefulness of each BP included in the Connectivity Toolbox based on the national circumstances in Cyprus, (ii) identifies the BP that have the potential to improve the situation in Cyprus and therefore, they should be adopted by Cyprus and (iii) sets the relevant timeframe for their implementation.

### *Broader Context:*

The Electronic Communications and Postal Services Law (L. 112(I)/2004) as amended and specified through secondary legislation sets the context for the operation of ECN operators with respect to their activities under this law: Duly authorised ECN operators may acquire immovable property for the purposes of any of their activities under this Law, and in case of property which cannot be acquired by agreement, this may be acquired under the provisions of the law on the compulsory expropriation of property.

Prior to executing any work on, under, over or above any immovable property, ECN operators shall make sure that all necessary rights and permissions have been obtained from every competent public authority. According to the procedures for the acquisition of rights of way Decree, 10/2012 permit granting includes various competent authorities (OCECPR, Public Work Department, Town Planning Department) and local authorities (Municipalities, Communities).

Applications follow a standardised official document which is shared between the above mentioned authorities and ECN Operators.

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<sup>1</sup> Common Union toolbox for Connectivity pursuant to Commission Recommendation of 18.9.2020 on a common Union toolbox for reducing the cost of deploying very high capacity networks and ensuring timely and investment-friendly access to 5G radio spectrum, to foster connectivity in support of economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in the Union

<sup>2</sup> COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION of 18.9.2020 on a common Union toolbox for reducing the cost of deploying very high capacity networks and ensuring timely and investment-friendly access to 5G radio spectrum, to foster connectivity in support of economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in the Union

For installing antennas and masts, ECN operators are obliged to receive the necessary town planning and building permits. More specifically, before installing antennas and masts, the Authorised Entity is obliged:

- to obtain the necessary town planning license, in accordance with the Town & Country Planning Laws of 1972, as they are amended or replaced from time to time;
- to obtain the necessary building license, in accordance with the Streets and Buildings Regulation Law, as it is amended or replaced from time to time;
- to obtain the necessary approval certificate in accordance with the Streets and Buildings Regulation Law or the necessary special approval certificate according to the Streets and Buildings Regulation (Temporary Provisions) Law of 2004 as amended or replaced from time to time;
- to conform, for specific cases, with the provisions of the 'Environmental Impact Assessment of Certain Projects' Law of 2005 as amended.

Regarding the installation of antennas and masts the following applies:

- Legislation defines the Minister of the Interior as the Planning Authority for examining any application for the grant of a planning permit, but since 1990 the Minister has designated most of his powers to the four bigger urban Municipalities, for their respective administrative areas, and the five Town Planning District Officers, for the rest of the island's territory.
- Building licenses are issued by the Building Authorities which include every Municipality within its own administrative area, and the Area District Officers for the rest of the island's territory.

## ANALYSIS PER BEST PRACTICE

### STREAMLINING PERMIT GRANTING PROCEDURES

#### 1. Introduce permit exemptions and fast track procedures and promote the application of existing lighter permit granting procedures.

##### *Current Status*

At present, all Electronic Communication Network Operators (ECN) are required to obtain a permit by relevant Authorities for any new Physical Infrastructures (PI) deployments. There is currently a high demand for the construction of new physical infrastructures (PI) for cases where existing PIs are not suitable to host new deployments. Regarding fixed infrastructures **the maximum time for granting permits is 4 weeks** (according to Order 10/2012). The non-observance of this time period by competent Authorities is considered as an implicit approval. For masts, the average time for granting permits, based on our experience, varies between the different Town Planning and Building Authorities. Irrespective of these differences, the Planning Authorities must reach a decision on an application to receive the relevant permits **within a period 6 weeks** from the submission of the application (according to the Minister of the Interior Order 3/2006). Unfortunately there are cases that the period of 6 weeks does not apply, especially when a license needs to be processed (town planning and/or building permit) through municipalities.

According to the current legislation the masts that satisfy the following criteria, are treated as if they have received the necessary planning permit by the Planning Authority and, therefore, an application is not required to be submitted to the Planning Authority:

- Below 6m height if they are installed in buildings of up to two floors.
- Below 9m height if they are installed in buildings above two floors.
- Below 25m height if they are installed on the ground outside urban areas.

All ECN operators are required to obtain a permit by relevant Authorities for any new Physical Infrastructures (PI) deployments. There is currently a high demand for the construction of new physical infrastructures (PI) for cases where existing PIs are not suitable to host new deployments.

##### *Usefulness: Very High*

##### *Expected plan*

Cyprus plans to reduce administrative burden and speed up the deployment of ECN infrastructure.

**Regarding towers/masts**, there is an initiative for a new Order regarding planning permits for radio communication stations. This Order will consider that the permission has been granted by the Planning Authority, for the construction of a radio communication station with broadcasting capability, provided that the following apply:

- a) The station is installed on the roof of a building with a height equal to or greater than the maximum allowed building height in the respective Urban Zone, or
- b) The station is installed on the roof of a building with a height less than the maximum allowed building height in the respective Urban Zone, even if in the same area and at a distance of less than 200m from the site of the station, there are or are allowed to build taller buildings, when the direction of radio wave transmission is documented to

- allow it or when the radio station is of the "micro" type as defined in Order 3 of 2006 of the Minister of Interior, or
- c) The station is installed on the ground, in an area that does not fall within a defined development area, and the height of the tower / mast does not exceed 25m.

The implementation of the order is highly dependent on the legislation, procedures and policies of public authorities. It is noted that small-area wireless access points are exempted as per Regulation (EU) 2020/1070.

**Regarding other infrastructures**, the following approach will be used:

1. Identify if national legislation provides permit granting authorities to use exemptions or notification mechanisms at their discretion
2. Identification if any and what types of the ECN deployments could be subject to a lighter permit granting regime or be exempted from a prior permit request on the grounds that their impact on aspects of public interest can be presumed to be minimal.
3. Identify any possible criteria related to exemptions or lighter permit procedure.
4. Review relevant national legislations, policy frameworks, codes of practice.
5. Proposal to include this BP in a policy paper as a transitional measure

#### *Potential stakeholders:*

- Permit Granting Authorities (i.e. Public Work Department, Town Planning Department, Municipalities, Communities)
- ECN operators
- OCECPR, Department of Electronic Communications
- Ministries (Ministry of Interior, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation And Digital Strategy, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works)

#### *Timeframe*

##### **Regarding towers/masts**

New order to be implemented by Q1 2022.

##### **Regarding other infrastructures**

Steps 1, 2, 3 to be implemented by Q2 2022.

Step 4 to be implemented by Q3 2023.

Step 5 to be implemented by Q3 2021, as a transitional measure.

## **2. Provide model regulations on electronic communications network deployment**

#### *Current Status*

According to the procedures for the acquisition of rights of way Decree, 10/2012 permit granting includes various competent authorities (public work department, town planning department) and local (municipalities, communities)) follow uniform procedures and application forms with regard to ECN deployments.

#### *Usefulness: Very High*

### *Expected plan*

The expected plan is to review the existing framework (model provision) and update it accordingly to describe fast-track procedures or other lighter permit mechanisms in relation to the outcome of the BP-1. It will further be scrutinized regarding its clarity, to assure consistent application across the different local authorities, which will be also promoted through the actions of BP-3.

### *Potential stakeholders*

- Permit Granting Authorities (i.e. Public Work Department, Town Planning Department, Municipalities, Communities)
- ECN operators
- OCECPR, Department of Electronic Communications
- Ministries (Ministry of Interior, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation And Digital Strategy, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works)

### *Timeframe*

Linked to BP-1.

## **3. Provide informative materials and workshops for municipalities and other competent authorities**

### *Current Status*

Currently there is no such material or workshops.

### *Usefulness: Very High*

### *Expected plan*

Despite the fact that there is an established procedure that streamlines permit granting, informative material will be further reviewed as a complementary measure. Therefore, the expected plan is to:

- Identify the relevant entities for the production/review of informative materials based on competency.
- Identify the best suited material to be provided.
- Review existing informative material.
- Production of new informative material if required.

### *Potential stakeholders:*

- Permit Granting Authorities (i.e. Public Work Department, Town Planning Department, Municipalities, Communities)
- ECN operators
- OCECPR, Department of Electronic Communications
- Ministries (Ministry of Interior, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation And Digital Strategy, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Work )

### *Timeframe*

Q2 2022

#### **4. Ensure the use of electronic means for permit applications**

##### *Current Status*

OCECPR has developed an electronic permit application system for the deployment of fixed infrastructures which is gradually released per Municipality/District.

*Usefulness: Very High*

##### *Expected plan*

See BP-5.

##### *Timeframe*

See BP-5.

#### **5. Digital administrative portal/single information point (SIP) coordination**

##### *Current Status*

BP has already been implemented.

*Usefulness: High*

##### *Expected plan*

OCECPR (National Regulatory Authority) coordinates the whole procedure for permit granting for ECN (for fixed wired network infrastructures only) and has developed an electronic permit application system for the deployment of fixed infrastructures which is gradually released per Municipality/District. The expected plan is to formulate the necessary policy decisions to enforce the system use and to enroll all the required users.

Regarding infrastructures for mobile networks, only the notification part of the process is currently performed electronically. The inclusion of the whole procedure within the above mention system, will be assessed within the context of the current BP.

##### *Potential stakeholders:*

- Permit Granting Authorities (i.e. Public Work Department, Town Planning Department, Municipalities, Communities)
- ECN operators
- OCECPR, Department of Electronic Communications
- Ministries (Ministry of Interior, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation And Digital Strategy, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Work )

##### *Timeframe*

Q2 2022

#### **6. Tacit approval for rights of way**

##### *Current Status*

BP has already been implemented: according to the Acquisition of Rights of Way Decree 10/2012 and no further initiatives are foreseen.

## **7. Fast track procedures for rights of way**

### *Current Status*

BP has already been implemented: The maximum time for granting rights or permits is 4 weeks according to the Acquisition of Rights of Way Decree 10/2012. The non-observance of this time period by competent Authorities is considered as tacit approval and no further initiatives are foreseen.

## **8. Establish broadband coordinators**

### *Current Status*

The existing legislations ensure the coordination with all competent authorities involved and specify the necessary permits and procedures that need to be obtained/followed. See also BP-5. No further initiatives are foreseen.

## **9. Use of joint preparatory coordination procedures for granting rights of way and permits necessary for civil works**

### *Current Status*

Coordination procedures are feasible when ECN operators apply for RoW or permits. All entities/authorities provide written comments or opinions about the intended deployment. In case of objections, consultations are held within (15) working days under the supervision of the Competent Authority to resolve the problem. Furthermore, due to the relatively small scale of the country and the respective works, it is considered that the existing measures are appropriate to solve these specific issues and no further initiative is envisaged.

## **10. Legal requirements with regard to the appropriateness of fees**

### *Current Status*

In our situation the authorities/entities involved do not charge any permit granting/usage fees. This is an appropriate practice to accelerate the deployment of VHCN. The BP will be assessed in the future in case any permit fees apply.

## **IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY THROUGH THE SINGLE INFORMATION POINT (SIP)**

## **11. Ensure the availability of information from different sources and enhance transparency of planned civil works**

### *Current Status*

The integration of all information into a single data portal is considered very useful. According to feedback received from ECN operators, the information regarding existing ECN operators' PI is of high relevance compared to other network operators PI.

### *Usefulness: Very High*

### *Expected plan*

OCECPR is going to implement a unified web portal system to enable the integrated production and provision of data on the reach of broadband networks and network infrastructure according to the requirements of OCECPR and the provisions of the following Legislative proposals:

1. Article 22 of the Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 and BEREC Guidelines on Geographical surveys of network deployments BoR 20(42) which will be applied through secondary legislation (OCECPR Decision).
2. Directive 2014/61/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks.

This procedure will cover the implementation of this BP based also on an impact assessment for the required investment by ECN operators to digitalise their networks and create web services (where these are not available).

This BP-11 is also linked to BP-12, 13, 14

At the present all electronic available information of PIs is available to ECN operators which is mainly information on PI of ECN Operators that covers basic information as proposed in the BCRD.

*Potential stakeholders:*

- OCECPR
- Network Operators (utilities/other entities)
- ECN Operators
- Public Authorities.

*Timeframe*

Q4 2023

**12. Ensure the availability of information via the Single Information Point (SIP) in electronic format**

*Current Status*

See BP-11

*Usefulness: Very High*

*Expected plan*

The actions related to this BP are reflected in the expected plan of BP-11. BP-11 will further include, available information by public sector bodies

*Timeframe*

See BP-11

**13. Include Georeferenced information (maps and digital models) in the data made available via the sip.**

*Current Status*

See BP-11

*Usefulness: Very High*

*Expected plan*

The actions related to this BP are reflected in the expected plan of BP-11. BP-11 will further include georeferenced information. The SIP will examine the provision of the necessary tools to transform existing PI into georeferenced format.

*Timeframe*

See BP-11

**14. Make available indicative information on the occupation level of the infrastructure and/or the existence of dark fibre**

*Current Status*

See BP-11

*Usefulness: Very high*

*Expected plan*

The actions related to this BP are reflected in the expected plan of BP-11. BP-11 will further include information on occupation level.

*Timeframe*

See BP-11

**15. Ensure the provision via the Single Information Point (SIP) of transparent information regarding the conditions of access to the existing physical infrastructure**

*Usefulness: Medium*

*Expected plan*

OCECPR will review its existing website to include integrated available and non-confidential information concerning access to existing PIs (e.g. technical and economic/pricing conditions).

*Potential stakeholders:*

- OCECPR
- Public Authorities
- Network Operators/Other Entities
- ECN Operators

*Timeframe*

Q4 2021

## **EXPANDING THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO EXISTING PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **16. Ensure access to physical infrastructure controlled by public bodies**

#### *Current Status*

No such access is currently provided.

#### *Usefulness: Very High*

#### *Expected plan*

The implementation of this BP is highly dependent on the current legislation, procedures and policies of public bodies. The introduction of this BP will be consulted with the potential stakeholders. The expected plan includes:

1. Identify if national legislation, allows access to PI owned or controlled by public bodies.
2. Identify any exceptions.
3. Review relevant national legislations, policy frameworks, codes of practice.
4. Proposal to include this BP in a policy paper as a transitional measure.

#### *Potential stakeholders:*

- Permit Granting Authorities (i.e. Public Work Department, Town Planning Department, Municipalities, Communities)
- ECN operators
- OCECPR, Department of Electronic Communications
- Ministries (Ministry of Interior, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation And Digital Strategy, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works)

#### *Timeframe*

Steps 1 and 2 to be implemented by Q2 2022.

Step 3 to be implemented by Q2 2023.

Step 4 to be implemented by Q3 2021.

### **17. Entrust a body with a coordinator and/or promoter role**

#### *Current Status*

No such body currently exists.

#### *Usefulness: Very High*

#### *Expected plan*

1. Identify a body with a coordinator and or promoter role.
2. Assignment of tasks based on competencies.

#### *Potential stakeholders:*

- Permit Granting Authorities (i.e. Public Work Department, Town Planning Department, Municipalities, Communities)
- ECN operators

- OCECPR, Department of Electronic Communications
- Ministries (Ministry of Interior, Deputy Ministry Of Research, Innovation And Digital Strategy, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Work

#### *Timeframe*

Q4 2022

### **18. Development of guidelines for all governance levels**

#### *Current Status*

No such guidelines currently exist.

#### *Usefulness: Very High*

#### *Expected plan*

1. Entrust this task to a relevant body.
2. Set up competent mixed working groups (with representatives of relevant public Authorities and administrations).

#### *Potential stakeholders:*

- Permit Granting Authorities (i.e. Public Work Department, Town Planning Department, Municipalities, Communities)
- ECN operators
- OCECPR, Department of Electronic Communications
- Ministries (Ministry of Interior, Deputy Ministry Of Research, Innovation And Digital Strategy, Ministry of Transport)

#### *Timeframe*

Q4 2022

## **DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISM**

### **19. Include an optional prior/parallel conciliation mechanism**

#### *Current Status*

This parallel mechanism is already in place as per the ‘Dispute resolution procedure between companies’ Decree 555/2007 having proved very useful (practical solutions acceptable by both parties, speed up proceedings and save costs, less confrontational). No further initiatives are foreseen with regards to this BP.

### **20. Ensure transparency, awareness and trust in the dispute resolution mechanism by issuing guidelines**

#### *Current Status*

Due to the limited number of disputes and national specificities (size, number of ECN operators), it is not deemed necessary to implement this BP.

## **21. Ensure electronic communication and submission for parties**

### *Current Status*

This BP is partially implemented. Due to the limited number of disputes it is not considered useful to provide a dedicated website for submitting applications and documents.

### *Usefulness: HighExpected plan*

The following steps will be implemented:

1. Provide dedicated e-mail for the dispute settlement procedures.
2. Ensure the electronic submission of documents.

### *Potential stakeholders:*

- OCECPR
- ECN Operators
- Network Operators

### *Timeframe*

Q2 2021

## **REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF NETWORKS**

### **22. Limit the negative environmental footprint of the electronic communications networks**

#### *Current Status*

The environmental footprint of electronic communication networks are taken into consideration and ECN operators are encouraged to take measures that help to limit adverse environmental effects and enhance their sustainability. ECN Operators are encouraged to share their physical infrastructure for networks and also share (active and/or passive) sites for mobile networks ('Colocation and Sharing of facilities' Decree 247/2013 as amended). A notification mechanism informing all ECN operators well in advance of the works is already in place, to assure that any interested party can efficiently make use of the works. For public works (either new developments or improvement works), ECN operators are also informed and are allowed to submit their needs that are taken into account (by constructing the necessary ducts and manholes) by the Constructor performing the works. Moreover, ECN operators are taking their own initiatives for using energy-efficient equipment and renewable energy.

It may be relevant that all interested ECN Operators share common excavations and manholes (based on prototypes agreed between ECN operators and Public Works Department) and share fees for surveys and construction works.

This is nevertheless on a voluntary basis and although co-investment discussions have taken place in the past, there have been no such agreement. No further initiatives are foreseen.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 23. Assessment of environmental effects

#### *Current Status*

In the context of the installation of antennas and masts, the ECN operators are obliged to comply with the provisions of the environmental impact assessment from certain plans and programmes under the Law of 2005, as amended. According to the provisions of the law, an environmental impact assessment study is needed only in cases where the stations are installed in Natura-protected or National Parks areas. No further initiatives are foreseen.

## INCENTIVES FOR INVESTMENT

### 24. Promote adequate reserve prices

#### *Current Status*

The reserve price in our auction procedures always reflects the minimum levels of fees for rights of use of radio spectrum. The reserve price is calculated using a benchmark analysis of the reserve prices in other countries, for similar auction procedures. The reserve price takes into consideration the size of the local market (population) and the special circumstances (local/global economy) always having in mind to attract substantial investments. The full amount of spectrum in the 700 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz frequency bands was part of the authorization procedure that took place in December 2020, in order for the full amount of the radio spectrum harmonized at Union Level to be assigned. We don't plan to change the methodology we use for defining the reserve price of our auction procedure. **Our methodology is in line with the best practices described in the toolbox and we intend to continue using it.**

### 25. Timely availability of 5G harmonised bands

#### *Current Status*

The full spectrum of the 700 MHz and the 3.4-3.8 GHz band is already authorised for the deployment of 5G networks. The 26 GHz band was not authorised due to the lack of clear evidence of market demand.

#### *Usefulness: Medium*

#### *Expected plan*

We plan in Q4 2022 to conduct a public consultation and if there is market demand to proceed with the authorisation of the 26 GHz band.

#### *Timeframe*

Q4 2022

### 26. Review national spectrum plans on a regular basis

#### *Current Status*

Our national allocation table (NAT) is regularly being reviewed with the objective to take the harmonised bands into use. The last review was in May 2020 and a new review is on public consultation in the DEC website.

*Usefulness: High*

*Expected plan*

A major review of the NAT is currently taking place.

*Timeframe*

Completion of the current NAT review by Q3 2021.

## **27. Enable payments of award fees in instalments**

*Current Status*

In our spectrum authorization procedures, the participants have the option of paying the fees for rights of use of radio spectrum also in instalments. Usually, a percentage of the fee has to be paid in advance with the issuing of the license and the rest of the fee is divided into annual instalments. The initial percentage to be paid can be flexible, taking into consideration the status of the local/global economy. A new element that we applied in our recent authorization procedure for 5G networks (700 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz) was that the first instalment will be payable in 15 months from the day of issue of the authorization. Taking into consideration the economic situation due to the pandemic, we facilitate our ECN operators with more time before starting to pay their instalments. Also, in the past our policy was when paying a fee in instalments, the ECN operators had to submit a bank guarantee for all the amount of the remaining fee to be paid. Taking into consideration the economic situation due to the pandemic we have decided for the current authorization procedure for 5G networks to reduce the amount of the bank guarantee (i.e. to cover part of the amount of the fee to be paid) in order to help our ECN operators to invest in their network deployment. We don't plan any new initiatives regarding this aspect. **Our current measures are in line with the best practices described in the toolbox and we intend to continue using them.**

## **28. Individual authorisation regime for the 24.25-27.5 GHz frequency band**

*Current Status*

The 24.25-27.5 GHz (26 GHz) frequency band was not part of the recent authorization procedure due to lack of market demand. Currently we don't have any request for authorizing local networks. Due to the size of our Country usually there is no demand or need for local networks. Nevertheless, **a public consultation will take place regarding the authorisation of the 26 GHz band, and the possibility of a flexible authorisation with a focus on local licensing and infrastructure sharing will be taken into account.**

*Usefulness: High*

*Expected plan*

As per BP-25.

*Timeframe*

As per BP-25.

## 29. Combine coverage obligations with financial incentives

### *Current Status*

The coverage obligations we have included in our current authorization procedure are in line with the European Commission's objectives regarding 5G network connectivity (as specified in COM(2016) 587 Final). These are the minimum requirements. We believe that market and the competition will force the ECN operators to accelerate and expand their coverage. **We don't plan any new initiatives regarding this aspect.** The financial incentives that we give (See BP-24, 27), like fee instalments, reasonable reserve prices, low amount of bank guarantee, are in line with the best practices described in the toolbox and we intend to continue using them. These are more than adequate to promote coverage. Moreover, our experience has shown that that market and the competition forces the ECN operators to accelerate and expand their coverage beyond the coverage obligations included in their authorizations.

## 30. Promote the opportunity of infrastructure sharing

### *Current Status*

There is already symmetrical regulation for passive infrastructure sharing according to the 'Colocation and sharing of facilities' Decree 247/2013 as amended, and ECN Operators are making extended use. In particular, passive share of masts and towers already takes place between ECN operators. Furthermore, RAN sharing is also offered in the market on commercial basis and already takes place between two ECN operators (and was also used in the past by two other ECN operators). **We don't plan any new initiatives regarding this aspect.** ECN Operators have the option for sharing of passive and active infrastructure, and are fully aware of these options which they currently implemented according to their plans. Although marginally relevant, according to the 'national roaming' decree 219/2019, national roaming is allowed and already takes place.

## 31. Structure of recurrent spectrum fees to incentivise roll-out

### *Current Status*

We don't charge recurrent spectrum fees for this kind of network. ECN Operators have to pay only the auction price. **We don't plan any new initiatives** regarding this aspect.

## 32. Use financial aid as a complement to incentivise investments

### *Current Status*

Cyprus has already requested funding from the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)** in Component 4.1: Upgrade the infrastructure for connectivity. Through this project, the population living as well as businesses of the remaining (underserved) areas, both in terms of fixed and 5G, will be covered. Synergies with Connecting Europe Facility (CEF2) with regards to 5G communities will also be examined and the possibility to finance part of the active equipment in 5G Base Stations (i.e. radio systems, antennas etc) in underserved areas. Furthermore 1436 buildings, hosting major socio-economic drivers are expected to be covered with symmetric Gigabit speeds.

### *Usefulness: High*

### *Expected plan*

1. Further opportunities to incentivise investments will be sought through Structural Funds.
2. Proceed with the implementation of the RRF projects as per the RRF time plan.

### *Timeframe*

Step 1 to be completed by Q2 2021.  
Step 2 as per the RRF time plan.

## **ENHANCED COORDINATION AT UNION LEVEL ON SPECTRUM ASSIGNMENT FOR CROSS-BORDER INDUSTRIAL USE**

### **33. Use coherent practice for granting rights of use for radio spectrum based on the European Electronic Communications Code**

#### *Current Status*

As already concluded by the member states it is too early to make an assessment on existing vertical use cases that benefit from cross-border coordination of spectrum. Currently **we don't have any interest from the market for this kind of use**. Furthermore, EU cross-border use cases are not really applicable for Cyprus, due to our geographical location and structure (being an island with no neighbouring countries). If there is a need in the future for granting rights of use for radio spectrum to ECN operators to deploy next-generation (including 5G) wireless infrastructure for cross-border industrial use then a coherent practice will be applied based on the European Electronic Communications Code.

### **34. Facilitate interoperability through the development and application of standards**

#### *Current Status*

Currently we don't have any interest from the market for this kind of use and EU cross-border use cases are not really applicable for Cyprus. **If there is a need in the future we will apply EU standards.**

### **35. Make use of harmonised technical conditions developed by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT)/ Electronic Communications Committee (ECC), if common dedicated frequency ranges are deemed necessary**

#### *Current Status*

Currently we don't have any interest from the market for this kind of use and EU cross-border use cases are not really applicable for Cyprus. **If there is a need in the future we will apply harmonised technical conditions developed by CEPT/ECC.**

### **36. When identifying the appropriate authorisation regime member states should pay particular attention to any specificities resulting from a cross-border dimension**

#### *Current Status*

Currently we don't have any interest from the market for this kind of use and EU cross-border use cases are not really applicable for Cyprus. If there is a need in the future when identifying the appropriate authorisation regime, we will pay particular attention to any specificities resulting from a cross-border dimension.

## ASPECTS RELATED TO ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

### 37. Promote continuous scientific research on electromagnetic field (EMF) emissions carried out by credible and independent institutions

#### *Current Status*

Our current practice is to monitor all scientific findings related to EMF and health issues, including ICNIRP and WHO, and if needed to take all appropriate measures to adjust our national regulation. EMF limits are set by the Ministry of Health following Recommendation 1999/519/EC. Public health is always a priority for us and we want to be sure that we take the right decisions based on up to date scientific information on EMF and its impact on health.

#### *Usefulness: High*

#### *Expected plan*

Our plan is to enhance public confidence and reduce social resistance to the deployment of 5G networks, by publishing the findings of scientific research in the DEC website (<https://emf-dec.dmrld.gov.cy/emf>).

#### *Timeframe*

Continuous.

### 38. Coordinated and targeted communication for informing and educating on 5G implementation

#### *Current Status*

**Currently a comprehensive information campaign is taking place.** We are cooperating with the ECN operators and all relevant competent authorities in order to implement a joint campaign with targeted goals. The main goal is everyone to be informed for the benefits of 5G. This campaign is led by the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, and targets the members of the government and parliament, the local authorities and the general public. This campaign includes TV and radio spots, informative leaflets, billboards, which point out the benefits of 5G. Furthermore, workshops/seminars, TV talk shows will be organized that will focus on answering crucial questions regarding the impact of 5G on health and environment.

Furthermore, In Cyprus, mobile ECN operators are obliged to conduct continuous measurements by accredited laboratories (2 times per year for urban areas and 1 time per year for rural areas), for all their antennas taking into consideration a worst case scenario. The relevant results are published on the website of the Department of Electronic Communications of the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy and are accessible to every citizen (<https://emf-dec.dmrld.gov.cy/emf>).

Up to now the following actions have been taken.

Preparation of relevant promotional and informational material:

- Short TV film
- 4 animation videos, dealing with 1. What is 5G; 2. Advantages of 5G technology and benefits for society/economy; 3. 5G as a lever to improve citizens' quality of life 4. 5G applications in different sectors/ areas

- Q&A document drafted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other key stakeholders
- Joint Statement co-signed by the Minister of Health and the Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy expressing the official position of the government
- Dedicated website section including all relevant material

#### Communications Initiatives:

- Ad campaigns in local media (TV, radio, web, social media)
- Series of interventions/ interviews/ articles (printed and online media, video interviews etc.) of government officials in local media, in English and Greek
- Participation and support of different conferences/seminars/TV shows etc. dealing with the topic of 5G – The Deputy Minister and the Permanent Secretary as speakers
- Targeted meetings/consultations with key stakeholders
  - Municipalities
  - Commissioner for the Environment & Commissioner for Children's Rights
  - Cyprus Medical Association
  - Parliamentary Committees
- All promotional and informational material has been shared with all stakeholders, as well as ECN operators, for their own use

#### *Usefulness: Very High*

#### *Expected plan*

Our plan is to provide evidence-based information to specific groups and to educate the wider public about 5G thus strengthening public confidence in institutions, which in turn may increase acceptance for the new 5G technology.

Our Upcoming initiatives include:

- Video animation and factsheet on how to use wireless technology responsibly – to be sent to all stakeholders as well. Factsheet to be sent through the Municipalities' network to all households
- Workshop with Cyprus Medical Association to tackle issues of controversy and issue a joint statement of support

#### *Potential stakeholders:*

- ECN operators
- Municipalities
- Commissioner for the Environment & Commissioner for Children's Rights
- Cyprus Medical Association
- Parliamentary Committees

#### *Timeframe*

As already mention a comprehensive information campaign is taking place. Most of the actions have already been implemented. The 'upcoming initiatives', are planned to be implemented by end of 2021.

### **39. Inform the public on the compliance of radio base stations installations with applicable EMF safe limits**

#### *Current Status*

Currently mobile ECN operators are obliged to conduct continuous measurements by accredited laboratories (2 times per year for urban areas and 1 time per year for rural areas), for all their antennas taking into consideration a worst case scenario. The relevant results are published on the website of the Department of Electronic Communications of the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy and are accessible to every citizen (<https://emf-dec.dmrtd.gov.cy/emf>). **This approach is in line with the best practices described in the toolbox** and we intend to continue applying it.