

p r e s s e - i n f o r m a t i o n

by BEVH e. V. • BGA e. V. • BREKO e. V. • BUGLAS e. V. • DDV e. V. • DER MITTELSTANDS-
VERBUND • Deutscher Bauernverband e. V. • Deutscher LandFrauenverband e. V. • Deutscher
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HDE e. V. • INTUG • Telecom e. V. • VAF e. V. • VATM e. V. • VKU e. V.

Businesses and municipal associations unanimously reject Vectoring monopoly EU-Commission is asked to intervene

Berlin, 21.04.2016. In a letter addressed to Commissioner Oettinger, Vice-President Andrus Ansip and other relevant Commissioners 25 associations expressed their concerns aiming at modifying a vectoring monopoly largely granted by the Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA) that would benefit Deutsche Telekom. The Commission has received the draft notification of the German regulator. According to the signatories, the decision delays and increases the price of the urgently needed fiber roll-out, instead of actually promoting the process.

The 25 associations argue: The transition to a gigabit society can only be realized through competition rather than new technological monopolies. Collectively, the signatories warn against the negative implications on the German business location, which will consequently have a spillover effect on Europe and its future competitiveness. The signatories are convinced that vectoring technology has to be open for every interested firm in order to promote the broadband deployment in also rural areas.

The associations underline, that competition not only promotes the necessary transition to the gigabit society but also the broadband targets of 2018. More than 80% of the existing fiber connections to the house or end-user (FTTB/FTTH) are built by competitors. Additionally, more than 50% of the total investments are realized by them. The associations are convinced that this vectoring II case is not only about a decision of a pure regulatory request made by Deutsche Telekom. It is a political landmark decision with a far-reaching impact on the society for the next ten years. It is time for politics to take responsibility and to clearly reject a technological monopoly.

Deutsche Telekom aims at contractually committing itself towards the BNetzA to deploy almost all 8.000 nearshore areas – an area of approximately 550m around the Main Distribution Frame (MDF). These nearshore areas are the most profitable ones when it comes to the roll-out of broadband in Germany.

The letter further argues: “The resulting obligation to overbuild already existing Next Generation Access infrastructures, including fiber and TV broadband cable, would not only be unique itself, but would also harm infrastructure based competition in Germany and Europe”.

Furthermore, the associations warn: “Facing the ever increasing challenges of digitalization, German companies from sectors like industry, SME, trade, services and agriculture need a full-coverage broadband network that allows for speeds beyond 50Mbit/s. On a long-term and sustainable basis, this is only possible through an immediate, massive and continued roll-out of a fiber network”.

The associations underline: “Our goal has to be a gigabit society. Only competition based infrastructure and investment will lead to a fast roll-out of the required gigabit networks”. Prohibiting investments for national and international investors will not only infringe European law but also harm end-user on a long-term basis. Consequently, the associations expect a strong intervention from the Commission.

The letter was signed by BEVH, BGA, BREKO, BUGLAS, DDV, DER MITTELSTANDSVERBUND, Deutscher Bauernverband, Deutscher LandFrauenverband, Deutscher Landkreistag, Deutscher Städtetag, DIE JUNGEN UNTERNEHMER, Digitale Gesellschaft, DVPT, eco, ECTA, FTTH Council Europe, FRK, GAME, GdW, HDE, INTUG, Telecom, VAF, VATM und VKU.

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