

# Implementing the new Electronic Communications Code and enhancing digital connectivity across the EU

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DIGITALEUROPE welcomes the adoption of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) at today's Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council meeting. This follows the final vote in the European Parliament last month and paves the way for a new regulatory framework for telecoms networks and services in the EU.

*'Now that the Code has been formally adopted, we enter a crucial period of implementation that will largely determine whether the new framework is a success or a missed opportunity for innovation and European harmonisation,'* said Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director-General of DIGITALEUROPE.

She added: *'Gigabit connectivity, 5G and digital transformation across all industries and services in the European economy will only happen if the new rules generate investment and harmonise requirements across the single market. We stand ready to support the European Commission, BEREC, the RSPG and national regulators to this end.'*

Among the areas where the Code promises to spur network deployment and harmonise and simplify national requirements are the new provisions on small cells. On the other hand, clarity and predictability will be needed in national implementation to make sure that much-needed co-investment in very high-capacity networks can be generated in the market. Similarly, there is a risk that a patchwork of national rules for the regulation of new communications services could emerge, which could endanger choice and innovation in the Digital Single Market.

In addition to the Code, the Council yesterday also voted its general approach on the future Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), opening the way for trialogue talks once the European Parliament approves its report in Strasbourg next week.

*'European industry and society also need to receive clear signals for the future when it comes to the next Multi-annual Financial Framework that is now being debated,'* Bonefeld-Dahl continued. *'Investment in digital connectivity needs to be prioritised and embedded into the expanding digital economy, including transport and energy. A clear commitment to the necessary funds under the CEF is essential to this end.'*

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## ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies. DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies.

DIGITALEUROPE's members include in total over 35,000 ICT Companies in Europe represented by 66 Corporate Members and 40 National Trade Associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: <http://www.digitaleurope.org>

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