



29 March 2021

To: Administrations of the Eastern Partnership countries:

- ICT Ministries
- Regulators
- Competition, State aid, antimonopoly organisations
- Ministries of Justice
- Other organisations directly connected to the legislative process
- HDM coordinators

CC: Organisations of the EU and EU MS:

- Delegations of the EU in the EaP countries
- the EU Member States Permanent Representations to the EU

Subject: Invitation to discuss regulatory governance & steps towards the harmonised approach on measuring connectivity targets for DIGITAL Transformation in EaP

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our pleasure to invite your organization to the EaP stakeholders meeting that, subsequent to the EaP ministerial declaration in Bucharest (28th February 2019), aims at presenting the progress and outcomes of the work performed on the objectives of setting up the independent NRA in EaP countries and harmonising digital environments, such as broadband infrastructure, part of Deliverable 7¹ - "Harmonisation of Digital Markets".

¹eap 20 deliverables for 2020.pdf (europa.eu)

Acknowledging the effectiveness of the independent and empowered NRA for a competitive environment on the national markets, the EU best practices have shown that broadband connectivity is a critical foundation for socioeconomic development. Therefore, a timely deployment of very high-capacity networks is of utmost importance to ensure digital transition in EaP.

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned, the purpose of this special meeting is to address institutional independence, the authority and responsibility of the national NRAs alongside mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the broadband state-of-play in order to enable the development of a resilient and future-proof infrastructure, promoting investments and competition in the sector.

The discussions on regulatory governance will cover the work that has been completed by the EU4Digital Facility in close partnership with Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network (EaPeReg) covering the methodology and highlighting the key findings on a per country basis. The expected further steps will be brought to the participants' consideration.

Taking into account the feedback received from the relevant national stakeholders (in annex), a harmonised approach through setting up a framework for connectivity state-of-play assessment based on the key dimensions such as technologies, speed and coverage will be also discussed. The proposal will be subject to ICT Ministries endorsement during the meeting.

The organisation of this event is supported by the European Commission. The EaPeReg partners, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), will share their views on the topics under the event's discussion.

The Agenda of the event is attached to this letter for your consideration. We kindly encourage you and the relevant specialists in your organisation to participate in this special event.

For the registration, please use the link provided in the event online platform: <u>EaP stakeholders meeting</u> (<u>eap-events.eu</u>).

For any questions you might have regarding the event, please don't hesitate to contact Ms Inga Popovici, the Chair of IRB EWG/EaPeReg by email: inga.popovici@ancom.org.ro or phone: +40732005093.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the EaP stakeholders meeting!

Sincerely yours,

Inga Popovici

IRB EWG Chair/EaPeReg

Dan Sjöblom

EaPeReg Vice-chair in 2021