

Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) and the Office. 'Telecoms Package'

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Discussions in the Council bodies on this proposal showed that almost all Member States were against the creation of the **European electronic communications market authority** as proposed by the Commission. Ministers also discussed the issue of the establishment of a new market authority. The presidency summarised the debate as follows:

- there was a broad consensus among the majority of Member States that there is a need to improve the consistency of functioning of the internal market for electronic communications;
- there is a need for a prior agreement on aims and tasks of the new body before the determination of its legal structure;
- the new body has to function in accordance with the principles of efficiency, transparency, independence and expertise;
- the establishment of the new body would have no affect on the existence and functioning of the European Network and Information Security Agency;
- tasks of the new body would not include spectrum management issues;
- regarding aims and tasks, the new body has to focus on economic regulation issues.

The debate also showed that there are many reservations regarding the establishment of a new body as a Community body and that there is broad support among Member States to the idea that the existing European regulators group should be enhanced.