

Guidelines for trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure

2011/0299(COD) - 11/03/2014 - Final act

PURPOSE: to establish guidelines for the implementation of trans-European telecommunications networks.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) n° 283/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure and repealing Decision No 1336/97/EC

CONTENT: the internet is becoming the dominant platform for communication, services, education, and participation in social and political life, cultural content, and business. Therefore, it is essential to ensure the trans-European availability of widespread, high-speed, secure internet access and digital services in the public interest.

The Regulation lays down **new guidelines** for the timely deployment and interoperability of projects of common interest in the field of trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure.

Objectives and operational priorities: the projects of common interest shall contribute to achieving the general objectives specified in [Regulation \(EU\) No 1316/2013](#).

The operational priorities are as follows:

- **interoperability, connectivity, sustainable deployment**, operation and upgrading of trans-European digital service infrastructures, as well as coordination at European level;
- efficient flow of private and public investments to stimulate the deployment and modernisation of broadband networks with a view to contributing to achieving the broadband targets of the [Digital Agenda for Europe](#).

Projects of common interest: these shall, in particular: (i) aim at the creation and/or enhancement of interoperable and, whenever possible, internationally compatible core service platforms; (ii) provide efficient investment vehicles for broadband networks.

The list of projects of common interest in the Annex covers digital infrastructures such as: (i) electronic identification and authentication; (ii) electronic delivery of documents; (iii) automated translation; (iv) critical digital infrastructures support; (v) electronic invoicing.

The list also includes **well-established digital service infrastructures** particularly identified to be eligible for funding contributing to uninterrupted service. Well-established digital service infrastructures include **Europeana** (allowing access to digital resources on European heritage) and **Safer internet** for children, which will be priorities in terms of financing.

Methods of intervention: the Regulation provides that actions contributing to projects of common interest, which meet eligibility criteria, may benefit from Union funding Union financial assistance **under the conditions and instruments available under Regulation establishing the CEF**.

The total amount of the budget allocated to financial instruments for broadband networks shall not exceed the minimum necessary to establish cost-efficient interventions. That amount shall be **15 %** of the financial envelope for the telecommunications sector as set out in the CEF Regulation.

Eligibility criteria and priorities for funding: to be eligible for funding, actions contributing to projects of common interest in the field of **digital service infrastructures** must particularly, have sufficient maturity to be deployed, create European added value, have a strategy and planning for long-term sustainability, and comply with international and/or European standards for interoperability.

Actions contributing to projects of common interest in the **field of broadband networks** must satisfy certain criteria such as: making a significant contribution to the realisation of the targets of the Digital Agenda for Europe, address market failures or sub-optimal investment situations and not lead to market distortions or crowding out of private investment.

At least **one-third of the broadband projects** receiving financial assistance under this Regulation shall aim at **broadband speeds above 100 Mbps**.

In its [resolution of 12 September 2013](#), the European Parliament emphasised that a revised forward-looking Digital Agenda for Europe target for 2020 is to connect all Union households with broadband connections delivering 100 Mbps, with 50 % of households subscribing to 1 Gbps or more.

Exchange of information, monitoring and reporting: Member States and the Commission shall exchange information and best practices about the progress made in the implementation of the Regulation. The Commission shall publish a yearly overview of that information and submit it to the European Parliament and to the Council.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 21.12.2013. The Regulation is applicable from 01.01.2014.