



Basic information	
<p><b>2023/0046(COD)</b></p> <p>COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation</p>	Procedure completed
<p>Measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks</p> <p>Repealing Directive 2014/0061 <a href="#">2013/0080(COD)</a></p> <p><b>Subject</b></p> <p>3.30.05 Electronic and mobile communications, personal communications 3.30.06 Information and communication technologies, digital technologies 3.30.20 Trans-European communications networks 3.30.25 International information networks and society, internet</p>	



Key players			
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>	<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<a href="#">ITRE</a> Industry, Research and Energy	MITUȚA Alin (Renew)	31/03/2023
		<p>Shadow rapporteur</p> <p>WINZIG Angelika (EPP)</p> <p>COVASSI Beatrice (S&amp;D)</p> <p>NIENASS Niklas (Greens /EFA)</p> <p>NISSINEN Johan (ECR)</p> <p>MAYER Georg (ID)</p> <p>KOUNTOURA Elena (The Left)</p>	
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	<b>Commission DG</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	
	Communications Networks, Content and Technology	BRETON Thierry	
European Economic and Social Committee			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
		COM(2023)0094	Summary

23/02/2023	Legislative proposal published		
29/03/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
19/09/2023	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
19/09/2023	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
25/09/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	<a href="#">A9-0275/2023</a>	<a href="#">Summary</a>
02/10/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
04/10/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 72)		
22/02/2024	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	<a href="#">PE759.630</a> <a href="#">GEDA/A/(2024)001061</a>	
23/04/2024	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	<a href="#">T9-0292/2024</a>	<a href="#">Summary</a>
23/04/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
29/04/2024	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
29/04/2024	Final act signed		
08/05/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
<b>Procedure reference</b>	2023/0046(COD)
<b>Procedure type</b>	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
<b>Procedure subtype</b>	Legislation
<b>Legislative instrument</b>	Regulation
<b>Amendments and repeals</b>	Repealing Directive 2014/0061 <a href="#">2013/0080(COD)</a>
<b>Legal basis</b>	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 114
<b>Other legal basis</b>	Rules of Procedure EP 165
<b>Mandatory consultation of other institutions</b>	<a href="#">European Economic and Social Committee</a>
<b>Stage reached in procedure</b>	Procedure completed
<b>Committee dossier</b>	ITRE/9/11366

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE749.242</a>	15/06/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE750.132</a>	07/07/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE750.223</a>	07/07/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A9-0275/2023</a>	25/09/2023	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		<a href="#">PE759.630</a>	16/02/2024	

Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0292/2024	23/04/2024	<a href="#">Summary</a>
<b>Council of the EU</b>				
<b>Document type</b>		<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement		<a href="#">GEDA/A/(2024)001061</a>	16/02/2024	
Draft final act		<a href="#">00055/2024/LEX</a>	29/04/2024	
<b>European Commission</b>				
<b>Document type</b>		<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Legislative proposal		COM(2023)0094 	23/02/2023	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2023)0096	23/02/2023	
Document attached to the procedure		SWD(2023)0046	23/02/2023	
Document attached to the procedure		SWD(2023)0047 	23/02/2023	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		<a href="#">SP(2024)394</a>	08/08/2024	
<b>National parliaments</b>				
<b>Document type</b>	<b>Parliament /Chamber</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Contribution	<a href="#">CZ_SENATE</a>	<a href="#">COM(2023)0094</a>	05/06/2023	
Contribution	<a href="#">IT_SENATE</a>	<a href="#">COM(2023)0094</a>	08/06/2023	
Reasoned opinion	<a href="#">IT_CHAMBER</a>	<a href="#">PE749.882</a>	09/06/2023	
<b>Other institutions and bodies</b>				
<b>Institution/body</b>	<b>Document type</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	<a href="#">CES0921/2023</a>	12/07/2023	

<b>Additional information</b>		
<b>Source</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>
EP Research Service	<a href="#">Briefing</a>	20/06/2024
European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>	

## Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	02/02/2024	Deutsche Telekom
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	01/02/2024	Friends of Europe
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	30/01/2024	Vodafone GmbH
WINZIG Angelika	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	10/01/2024	Bundesverband Breitbandkommunikation e.V.
WINZIG Angelika	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	08/01/2024	European agri-cooperatives European farmers
WINZIG Angelika	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	07/12/2023	Telekom Austria AG
WINZIG Angelika	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	06/12/2023	Telekom Austria AG
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	06/12/2023	US Embassy in Romania
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	22/11/2023	Vodafone
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	17/11/2023	Apple Inc.
WINZIG Angelika	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	15/11/2023	Vantage Towers AG
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	13/11/2023	American Tower Corporation
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	13/11/2023	Congressman, US Congress
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	04/11/2023	Vantage Towers
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	30/10/2023	Prysmian Group
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	24/10/2023	Teneo Brussels
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	20/09/2023	Europacable
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	12/09/2023	Hessen Vertretung des Landes Hessen
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	07/09/2023	Vantage Towers AG
COVASSI Beatrice	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	06/09/2023	Open Fiber
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	04/07/2023	GIGAEurope aisbl
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	03/07/2023	Deutsche Telekom
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	03/07/2023	European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association
WINZIG Angelika	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	03/07/2023	Deutsche Telekom
NIENASS Niklas	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	26/06/2023	European Local Fibre Alliance
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	22/06/2023	Huawei Technologies
WINZIG Angelika	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	20/06/2023	Österreichischer Gemeindebund Council of European Municipalities and Regions

KOUNTOURA Elena	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	12/06/2023	Huawei Technologies
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	01/06/2023	Minister for Digital Strategy and Innovation of the German State of Hesse
COVASSI Beatrice	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	01/06/2023	VATM, BEUC, BREKO, BUGLAS, CEDEC, COLT, Deutsche Glasfaser, DEUTSCHE TELEKOM AG, DIGITAL EUROPE, ECTA PORTAL, ELFA, ETNO, EU Strategy, EWE TEL GmbH, EWIA (European Wireless Infrastructure Association), FIPRA, FTTH - Council Europe, GSMA Europe, INWIT, LUMSA University (University of Siena), NOS, Open Fiber, Shearwater - Global Strategic Consulting, TELAGE, TELECOMITALIA, Telefonica S.A., Vantage Towers, VATM, Vattenfall-Eurofiber, VKU, Zentraler Immobilien Ausschuss (ZIA)
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	31/05/2023	Open Fiber
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	31/05/2023	Bitkom e.V.
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	30/05/2023	BREKO German Broadband Association
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	23/05/2023	European Wireless Infrastructure Association
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	22/05/2023	BDEW Bundesverband der Energie- und Wasserwirtschaft e. V.
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	16/05/2023	GSMA Europe
KOUNTOURA Elena	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	08/05/2023	BEUC
WINZIG Angelika	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	03/05/2023	WIENER STADTWERKE GmbH Wien Energie GmbH
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	25/04/2023	Computer & Communications Industry Association
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	25/04/2023	Vodafone
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	25/04/2023	Telefonica, S.A.
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	24/04/2023	Verband der Anbieter von Telekommunikations und Mehrwertdiensten
MITUȚA Alin	Rapporteur	ITRE	24/04/2023	Vantage Towers AG

## Other Members

Transparency		
Name	Date	Interest representatives
GRUDLER Christophe	09/01/2024	Orange
NIEBLER Angelika	28/11/2023	Bundesverband Breitbandkommunikation e.V. EWE Aktiengesellschaft
ECKE Matthias	09/11/2023	1&1 AG
ECKE Matthias	18/07/2023	Vantage Towers AG
GRUDLER Christophe	12/07/2023	Orange
ECKE Matthias	05/07/2023	Deutsche Telekom
ECKE Matthias	04/07/2023	Bundesverband Breitbandkommunikation e.V.
KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra	30/06/2023	DNA oyj
KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra	27/06/2023	Nokia
DANTI Nicola	12/06/2023	Open Fiber

<a href="#">BOGOVIČ Franc</a>	02/05/2023	Vantage Towers AG
<a href="#">BENIFEI Brando</a>	19/04/2023	Vantage Towers AG
<a href="#">BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun</a>	18/04/2023	Vodafone

<b>Final act</b>	
<a href="#">Regulation 2024/1309</a> <a href="#">OJ OJ L 08.05.2024</a>	<a href="#">Summary</a>
<a href="#">Corrigendum to final act 32024R1309R(01)</a> <a href="#">OJ OJ L 24.05.2024</a>	

## Measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks

2023/0046(COD) - 23/02/2023 - Legislative proposal

**PURPOSE:** to lay down new measures to facilitate the deployment of gigabit electronic communications networks across the Union (Gigabit Infrastructure Act).

**PROPOSED ACT:** Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

**ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

**BACKGROUND:** the digital economy has been changing the internal market profoundly over the last decade. The Union's vision is a digital economy that delivers sustainable economic and social benefits based on excellent and secure connectivity for everybody and everywhere in Europe. A high-quality digital infrastructure based on very high-capacity networks underpins almost all sectors of a modern and innovative economy.

The rapid evolution of technologies, the exponential growth in broadband traffic and the increasing demand for advanced very high-capacity connectivity have further accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result, the targets laid down in the Digital Agenda in 2010 have mostly been met, but they have also become obsolete. The share of households having access to 30 Mbps internet speeds has increased from 58.1% in 2013 to 90% in 2022. Availability of only 30 Mbps is no longer future-proof and not aligned with the new objectives set in Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of the European Parliament and of the Council for ensuring connectivity and widespread availability of very high-capacity networks. network, with all populated areas covered by 5G.

Therefore, there is a need for policies to **speed up and lower the costs** of the deployment of very high-capacity fixed and wireless networks across the Union, including proper planning, coordination and the **reduction of administrative burdens**.

**CONTENT:** with this proposal, the Commission seeks to **facilitate and stimulate the roll-out of very high-capacity networks** by promoting the joint use of existing physical infrastructure and by enabling a more efficient deployment of new physical infrastructure so that such networks can be rolled out faster and at a lower cost.

More specifically, the measures of the proposed Gigabit Infrastructure Act, *inter alia*,

- extend the **access obligation to physical infrastructure** that is **not part of a network** but is owned or controlled by public sector bodies. It also provides for exceptions for certain categories of buildings (e.g. for reasons of public security, safety and health) and introduces the possibility for Member States to set up a body to coordinate access relating to public assets;
- provide for the possibility for the Commission to issue guidance on the application of access provisions and on civil works coordination provisions;
- mandate the provision of **minimum information on existing physical infrastructure** by network operators and public sector bodies owning or controlling physical infrastructure, including georeferenced information, via single information points in electronic format. It is stipulated that access to this minimum information could be restricted, for example, for security reasons or certain categories of buildings. Similarly, the obligation to provide minimum information would not apply when the obligation would be disproportionate based on a cost-benefit analysis;
- provide for the **right of access to minimum information for all** (public and private) planned civil works carried out by network operators via single information points in electronic format, including georeferenced information;
- introduce a new principle of nationally consistent rules governing the conditions and procedures applicable for granting permits, including rights of way;

- mandate the Commission to specify the categories of deployments that will be exempted from permits by way of an implementing act;
- lay down that **fees and charges for permits**, including rights of way, cannot go beyond the administrative charges;
- mandate in-building physical infrastructure, access points and **in-building fibre wiring for new and majorly renovated** buildings;
- provide for a **single national digital entry point and access to digital tools**, especially when there is more than one single information point or when information is located elsewhere, allowing the exercise of rights and compliance with obligations set out in this Regulation.

## Measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks

2023/0046(COD) - 08/05/2024 - Final act

PURPOSE: to ensure faster deployment of digital network infrastructure across Europe.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2024/1309 of the European Parliament and of the Council on measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks, amending Regulation (EU) 2015/2120 and repealing Directive 2014/61/EU (Gigabit Infrastructure Act).

CONTENT : this Regulation aims to facilitate and stimulate the roll-out of very high-capacity networks, such as fibre and 5G, by promoting the joint use of existing physical infrastructure and by enabling a more efficient deployment of new physical infrastructure so that such networks can be rolled out faster and at a lower cost.

### ***Access to existing physical infrastructure***

Network operators and public sector bodies owning or controlling physical infrastructure should meet, upon written request of an operator, all reasonable requests for access to that physical infrastructure under fair and reasonable terms and conditions, including price, with a view to deploying elements of very high-capacity networks or associated facilities. Such written requests shall specify the elements of the physical infrastructure for which the access is requested, including a specific time frame.

Member States may provide that owners of private commercial buildings which are not owned or controlled by a network operator are to meet, upon the written request of an operator, reasonable requests for access to those buildings, including their rooftops, with a view to installing elements of very high-capacity networks or associated facilities under fair and reasonable terms and conditions, and at a price reflecting market conditions. Prior to such a request from the access seeker all of the following conditions should be met:

- the building is located in a **rural or remote area** as defined by Member States;
- there is no very high-capacity networks of the same type - fixed or mobile - as that the access seeker intends to deploy available in the area for which the request for access is made, and there is no plan to deploy such a network according to the information collected via the single information point available at the date of the request,
- there is no physical infrastructure in the area for which the request for access is made that is owned or controlled by network operators or public sector bodies and is technically suitable to host elements of very high-capacity networks.

Network operators and public sector bodies owning or controlling physical infrastructure may **refuse access** to certain physical infrastructures on the basis of one or more of the following grounds: the existence of justified grounds in terms of safety, national security and public health or the existence of duly justified grounds in terms of the integrity and security of any network, in particular a **critical national infrastructure**.

### ***Transparency on physical infrastructure***

Operators should have the right, in order to request access to a physical infrastructure, to access, on simple request, in electronic form and via a single information point, minimum information concerning existing physical infrastructures. This minimum information must be accessible no later than 10 working days after the request for information is made. Network operators and public sector bodies should make the minimum information and, where appropriate, additional information available through a **single information point** and in electronic form.

### ***Coordination of civil works***

Public sector bodies owning or controlling physical infrastructure and network operators should have the right to negotiate agreements on the coordination of civil works, including on the apportioning of costs, with operators with a view to deploying elements of very high-capacity networks or associated facilities.

### ***Procedure for granting permits and rights of way***

The new regulation aims to **lower the unnecessarily high costs** of the deployment of high-capacity networks partially caused by permit-granting procedures. The latter will be simplified through a mandatory conciliation mechanism between public sector bodies and telecom operators.

Member States should ensure that a decision on whether or not to grant permits on the deployment of elements of very high-capacity networks or associated facilities is made available within **four months** of the date of receipt of a permit application.

To avoid undue delays, competent authorities should determine the completeness of the permit application within **20 working days** of the date of receipt.

In the absence of a decision from the competent authority within the applicable deadline, **the permit should be deemed to be granted upon expiry of that deadline**. In the absence of a decision by the competent authority within the applicable time limit, authorisation will be deemed to have been granted on expiry of that time limit. Member States may derogate from the provision on tacit approval if they provide the operator with an alternative solution to remedy the competent authority's failure to comply with the time limit set by Union or national law for taking a decision on the application for authorisation.

Where Member States derogate from the application of the provision on tacit approval, they should ensure that a **conciliation meeting** is organised where the operator or the competent authority request this. Such meeting should be organised without undue delay with a view to facilitating the adoption of a decision on the permit.

### ***In-building physical infrastructure***

To achieve better access to information society services by the public and the enterprises, the gigabit infrastructure act also addresses deployment and access to in-building physical infrastructure.

The regulation stipulates that all newly constructed buildings and buildings undergoing major renovation works, including elements under joint ownership, for which applications for building permits have been submitted after 12 February 2026, should be equipped with a fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure and in-building fibre wiring, including connections up to the physical point where the end user connects to the public network.

### ***Intra-EU communications***

Given that the present retail price cap for regulated intra-EU communications will expire on 14 May 2024, the current caps of EUR 0.19 per minute for calls and EUR 0.06 per SMS message are extended until **30 June 2032** to ensure protection, especially for vulnerable consumers.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 11.5.2024.

APPLICATION: from 12.11.2025.

## **Measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks**

2023/0046(COD) - 23/04/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 594 votes to 7, with 15 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks and repealing Directive 2014/61 /EU (Gigabit Infrastructure Act).

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the proposal as follows:

### ***Subject matter***

The proposed Regulation aims to facilitate and **stimulate the roll-out of very high-capacity networks** by promoting the joint use of existing physical infrastructure and by enabling a more efficient deployment of new physical infrastructure so that such networks can be rolled out faster and at a lower cost. It aims to strengthen and harmonise rights and obligations applicable across the Union to accelerate the roll-out of very high-capacity networks and cross-sector coordination, including backbone and next-generation wireless high-speed networks with performance at least equivalent to that of 5G.

### ***Access to existing physical infrastructure***

Member States may provide that owners of private commercial buildings which are not owned or controlled by a network operator are to meet, upon the written request of an operator, reasonable requests for access to those buildings, including their rooftops, with a view to installing elements of very high-capacity networks or associated facilities under fair and reasonable terms and conditions, and at a price reflecting market conditions. Prior to such a request from the access seeker all of the following conditions should be met:

- the building is located in a **rural or remote area** as defined by Member States;
- there is no very high-capacity networks of the same type - fixed or mobile - as that the access seeker intends to deploy available in the area for which the request for access is made, and there is no plan to deploy such a network according to the information collected via the single information point available at the date of the request,
- there is no physical infrastructure in the area for which the request for access is made that is owned or controlled by network operators or public sector bodies and is technically suitable to host elements of very high-capacity networks.

Network operators and public sector bodies owning or controlling physical infrastructure may **refuse access** to certain physical infrastructures on the basis of one or more of the following grounds: the existence of justified grounds in terms of safety, national security and public health or the existence of duly justified grounds in terms of the integrity and security of any network, in particular a critical national infrastructure.

In the event of a refusal to provide access, the network operator or the public sector body owning or controlling physical infrastructure should communicate to the access seeker, in writing, the specific and detailed reasons for such refusal no later than one month from the date of the receipt of

the complete request for access, **except for national critical infrastructure** for which specific and detailed reasons should not be required in the communication of refusal to the access seeker.

### ***Transparency on physical infrastructure***

Operators should have the right, in order to request access to a physical infrastructure, to access, on simple request, in electronic form and via a single information point, **minimum information** concerning existing physical infrastructures. This minimum information must be accessible no later than 10 working days after the request for information is made. This deadline may be extended once by five working days in duly justified cases. In addition to the minimum information, Member States may require information on existing physical infrastructure, such as information on the level of occupation of physical infrastructure.

Network operators and public sector bodies should make the minimum information and, where appropriate, additional information available through a single information point and in electronic form. For a transitional period that is as short as possible and does not exceed twelve months, Member States may exempt municipalities with fewer than 3 500 inhabitants from this obligation.

### ***Coordination of civil works***

Public sector bodies owning or controlling physical infrastructure and network operators should have the right to negotiate agreements on the coordination of civil works, including on the apportioning of costs, with operators with a view to deploying elements of very high-capacity networks or associated facilities. The network operator and public sector body owning or controlling physical infrastructure should ensure that the information for planned civil works related to its physical infrastructure, is correct, and up to date and made available promptly, via a single information point.

### ***Procedure for granting permits and rights of way***

Competent authorities should not unduly restrict or hinder the deployment of any element of very high-capacity networks or associated facilities. The competent authorities should grant or refuse permits, other than rights of way, within 4 months of the date of receipt of a complete permit application.

The competent authorities should determine the completeness of the application for permits or rights of way within 20 working days of receipt of the application. Competent authorities should invite the applicant to provide any missing information within that period. The determination by the competent authority that the permit application is complete should not result in any suspension or interruption of the overall four-month period for the examination of the permit application, starting from the date of receipt of the complete application.

In the absence of a decision from the competent authority within the applicable deadline, the permit should be deemed to be granted upon expiry of that deadline. Member States may derogate from this measure where at least one of the following remedies is available for the relevant permit-granting procedure: (a) the operator which suffered damage as a result of non-compliance by the competent authority with the applicable deadline set out in accordance with Article 7(5) is entitled to claim compensation for damage, in accordance with national law; (b) the operator may refer the case to a court or to a supervising authority.

In the event of a derogation, the Member State concerned should ensure that the competent authority, or any other body determined by that Member State, should invite the applicant, without undue delay, upon request of the operator, or on its own motion, to a **meeting** to facilitate the adoption of a decision on the permit application.

### ***Intra-EU communications***

The measures applicable to intra-EU communications introduced by this Regulation should be limited in time and should expire by **30 June 2032**. Such a prolongation should allow the Commission to gather and examine data relevant to assess the impact of the measures, while at the same time ensuring that vulnerable consumers are protected from potentially excessive prices for intra-EU communications.

## **Measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks**

2023/0046(COD) - 25/09/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy adopted the report by Alin MITUȚA (Renew, RO) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks and repealing Directive 2014/61 /EU (Gigabit Infrastructure Act).

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the proposal as follows:

### ***Expanded access to physical infrastructure***

To bridge the digital coverage gap between rural and urban areas, the report proposed, in limited conditions, to expand the obligation to facilitate access to physical public infrastructures to privately owned commercial buildings. This expansion aims to provide coverage in rural, remote, or scarcely populated areas where no public building or infrastructure can offer a satisfactory alternative.

Member States could **shorten the deadlines** to grant or deny permits necessary for deployment, introduce **supplementary permit exemptions**, extend provisions on civil works coordination also to privately funded projects, require that more information on physical infrastructure or planned civil works is provided to a single information point in electronic format, expand the provisions on access to existing physical infrastructure to privately owned

buildings, as well as introduce further incentives for administrative bodies to **speed up permitting procedures**, give guidance on methodologies for access price setting, including through the use of cost-oriented principle where appropriate, provided that they do not violate Union law including the provisions of this Regulation.

#### ***Joint coordination and single information points***

To reduce the administrative burden and ensure shorter timeframes for the permit-granting procedure, where multiple competent authorities are involved in the granting of a number of different permits and rights of way associated to one request, Member States should assign a **single coordination body**. That body should be tasked to facilitate the coordination between the various competent authorities involved, through different mechanisms, including through joint coordination procedures such as **on-site visits**. The information on the procedures and general conditions applicable to granting permits for civil works and rights of way should be made available via **single information points** by each competent authority involved.

In addition, the report called for ensure adequate technical, financial and human resources to support the roll-out and the digitalisation of single information points. The cost of setting-up the single national digital entry point, single information points and related digital tools needed may be fully or partly eligible for financial support under Union funds.

#### ***Report and monitoring***

Three years following the entry into force, the Commission should present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of this Regulation which should take into consideration the use of satellite backhauling in digital highspeed connectivity and the use of the European Infrastructure for Resilience, Interconnectivity and Security by Satellite.

#### ***Abolition of retail surcharges for regulated intra-EU communications***

To protect citizens from excessive prices, retail charges for intra-EU calls are currently capped. These caps are set to expire in May 2024. The amended text stated that providers of electronic communications to the public should not apply tariffs to regulated intra-EU communications terminating in another Member State that are higher than the tariffs applicable to services terminating in the same Member State, unless they demonstrate the existence of direct costs that are objectively justified. This change would not only foster intra-EU communications and exchanges but would also allow us to create a true single market for digital and telecommunication services in the EU.