



Good Morning

Mr. Deputy Secretary General, Dear Houlin

Dear Directors,

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests: ministers, regulators, delegates from ministries, the business and science sectors,

Dear colleagues,

Let me welcome you in Warsaw.

It is a great honour for Poland and for me personally to have you all here as our guests.

I would like to thank ITU for giving our country the possibility to organize GSR.

Also I would like to thank President Bronisław Komorowski, for extending his patronage over our conference and offering a warm welcome to our guests.



I am looking forward to three days packed with interesting discussions on the most significant topics: telecommunications and the Internet. It goes without saying that for all people around the globe both mobile telephony and the Internet access nowadays are extremely important.

Let me present a few facts to prove my point. In a survey carried out among Londoners, nearly 40 percent of people believe their stress levels would be higher if they couldn't surf the web, than in a



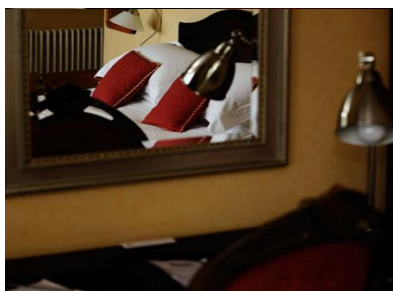
situation when basic utilities, like water or heating, were cut off or their tv sets stopped working.

On the other hand, when Americans were asked what they would give up for a year to maintain access to the Internet,



73 percent said they'd be ready to quit

alcohol and 21 percent said they would go a whole year without



..... sex.

When asked to determine the worth of the Internet, most U.S.



citizens said they would need to be paid roughly \$2,500 to live without the Internet for one year.



Fortunately, we are lucky to have here in this hotel, the Internet access as well as hot water and television, so I believe our symposium will continue in reasonably comfortable conditions.



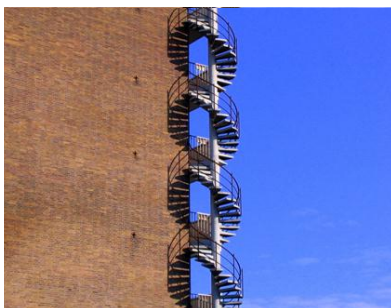
What`s more, I am convinced that all of us here today, we all, do our best so that people won`t have to give up anything in return for the Internet access.

Correct me if I am wrong but, I believe that our professional mission is to ensure that the telecommunication services and, in particular, access to the Internet, should become commonly accessible. Their availability has to be considered a basic civil right, not a luxury.

And – just to emphasize the point- the UN has dealt with this issue and has been discussing the Internet access as a civil right.

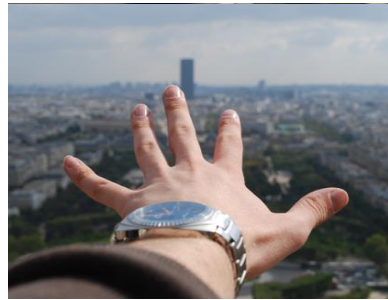
Ladies and gentlemen,

As you certainly know, this year's symposium goes under the



theme: “4th generation regulations: moving to the next level”.

Let me set out the scope of topics we are going to discuss within the next few days:



What matters most is the common goal. We can all achieve it regardless of where we are now.



This applies to the areas with FTTH and those



regions, where the development of radio technologies is dominant.

As a result, people of all continents and countries should and will be able to use the attributes of the global information-society.

And they should see themselves as its vital element.

Each and every one of us here, we are a team sharing a common goal. And so it happens that this goal is the theme of *our first and*

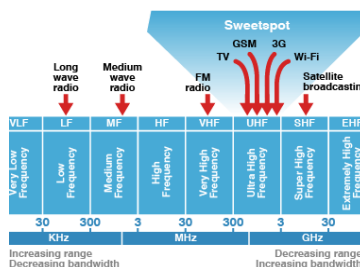
most important debate on 'adopting human centric policies in a digital era.'



All discussions will account for the perspectives of the business, regulators and consumers.

The consumer perspective because the consumer is the most important, and markets, states and regulators act according to the consumer needs. The digital society is a certain future, and it is ITU's domain to work out an optimal model for its construction.

Obviously, the quality of the model is directly proportional to the



spectrum resources.

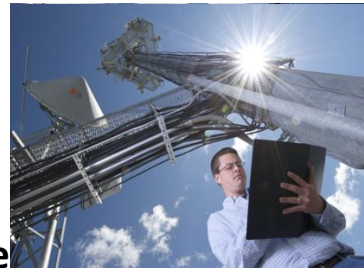
And that's what we will discuss.

It is the good most desired by operators, and at the same time it is the most important tool in the hands of regulators.

We should take responsibility and manage it efficiently.

This GSR is attended by more than 85% of countries heaving regulators, these countries are at different stages of the frequency allocation. I hope we will actively share knowledge about the management of spectrum.

And more importantly, we will start an urgent **discussion about the 2nd digital dividend.**

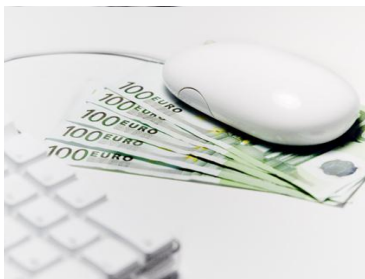


Another key element to consider is the infrastructure – particularly, its financing. 4.0

How to encourage companies to invest in modern networks?

Probably every regulator toys with this question. With the participation of investors, banks and representatives of rating agencies, we will hopefully come up with an answer, thanks to this debate.

Although we are in the telecommunication symposium, the



financial aspect will be often present in our discussions.

One of our topics is digital transactions, but also the overall structure of demand for digital services, as well as searching for a new range of services: Services that can be provided thanks to new technologies. This new situation calls for new regulations and safety improvements.

Also, I look forward to discussions on standards and patents in the

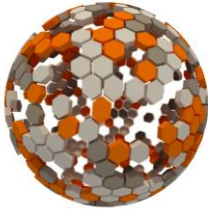


ICT business.

If you ask me, reaching a consensus, to reconcile innovative companies' interests with the development of digital economy, is one of the most important issues of today.

An agreement on that issue will have an impact on our everyday life.

As you all know, the last day of our meeting – Friday, is the regulators' day. In the group of regulatory authorities we will discuss the future.



The changes in the ICT market are rapid.

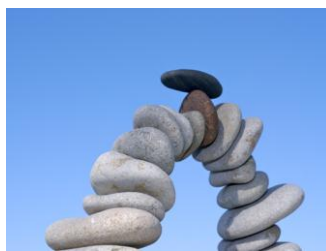
The media and telecommunications convergence process is deepening.



We are facing a transformation onto the next level:

new applications and communication platforms have already showed up. Regulatory authorities must not only accept the fact, but should actually be co-creators of the new reality.

Therefore, the subject of our discussions will be - the new model of



regulation based on consultation and partnership - namely, co-regulation. In this model the regulator is a partner for regulated subjects, and the rules are the result of joint actions.

Ladies and gentlemen,



Telecommunication networks are the blood stream of the world's economy. None of us can imagine today's work and daily life without a telephone, computer or the Internet access.



A man has become a *"homo smartphonus"* and is more and more dependent on mobile devices.

One-thirds of the world's population is connected to the Internet.



It means that nearly 4 billion people live „offline“ and still cannot enjoy the benefits offered by the Internet. If everyone had a chance to access the net, the benefits for the global economy would be incredible.

We have come here from different continents.

We represent different cultures,

different backgrounds

and value systems. But we have one thing in common



- we all want to have permanent access to the Internet because we are all confident that it guarantees development and a better life. Therefore, today's broadband Internet services cannot be considered a luxury –



they are a basic need for sustainable economic growth of the whole world.

As regulators, we have duties - but also tools - to do everything to promote broadband Internet access in our societies.

It cannot be successful without the cooperation with operators.



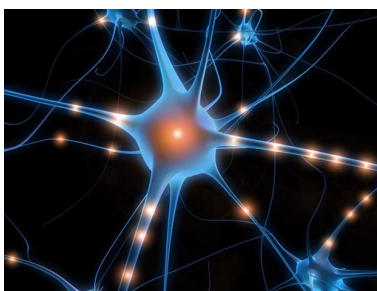
I am convinced that if we really think of NGN, which requires huge investments, the dialogue with operators is necessary. In my view, currently there is no room for strict regulation in the market.

Of course, everything depends on the level of development of a given market. Therefore the tasks of the regulators are much more difficult, as they have to combine their duty to protect competition with the tasks aiming at stimulating investment. A lot of us have heard from the operators: we will invest in the NGN if you don't regulate". Of course, we can take this on board and say: "Fine, don't invest, but we will see where it takes you in five years` time." But it is a step back for the whole society, which we must take care of.



Regulators have to remember about the rule – first of all, do no harm.

It is not what we should do for the market but what the market should do for people with our support.

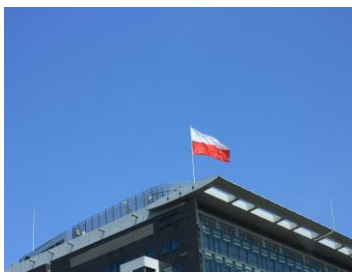


Just like synapses form info highways by building connections, we have to foster connections to coexist.

ITU could play the key role in these actions, of course with the support of regulators.



Our goal is to create optimal conditions for broadband investment and ensure free competition, but our solutions should influence not only the telecom market and its players but also other relevant sectors, such as the finance market or the energy industry.



I believe we do it right in Poland. Here, we have set the priority to develop solutions that suit specific needs of the market. That is why we propose amendments to the law, carry out analyses of the broadband infrastructure and services, provide educational assistance for the market players and develop our own know-how, using the experience of other countries.



That is why I think a partnership relation among all parties of our ecosystem, the market and regulator is necessary and is a modern approach, most suitable in the 21st century.

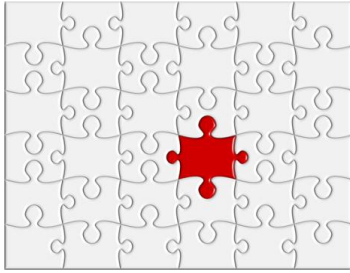
We should also remember about our role and position in the society.



We're a kind of lighthouse-keepers in the digitalization process and telecommunications services. Except for the market supervision, we need to create demand for digital services. Often, the problem is the lack of awareness about the



benefits that broadband brings. The latest report of the European Commission shows that only 2 percent of Europeans buy broadband access with a capacity of 100 Mb/s or faster. This is an alarmingly low rate. And shows the staggering amount of work ahead of us.



To recap, once again I would like to thank ITU for granting Poland the chance to organize GSR.

I believe that discussions and debates in such a noble group will result very soon in real action – both globally and nationally. But I also believe that this stay in Poland will be an inspiration to everyone.

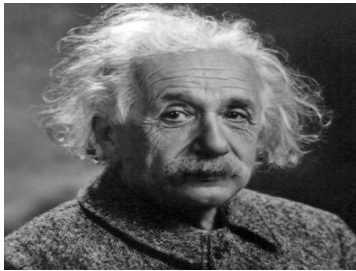


I encourage you to spend those days in Warsaw as actively as possible – we can enjoy a really nice summer outside, the city is attractive for guests and offers various attractions practically around the clock. And for desserts -



on Saturday, I invite you all to join me on a trip to one of the most beautiful cities in the world - Krakow.

And last but not least, let me share with you my message for this



symposium which is an anecdote from Einstein's life:



(...)

I hope during the symposium we will find as many needles as possible and never stop at the first one.



Ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies

Once again, I welcome all of you to the thirteenth -

hopefully it will be a very lucky 13

- Global Symposium for Regulators. Welcome to Warsaw and I wish you fruitful discussions and an enjoyable stay.