Next Generation Networks: Policy and Regulatory Challenges

St. Vincent, 7-8 October 2005

Laura Pontiggia, European Commission
DG INFSO
Contents

1. NGNs: the challenges
2. A need for a dialogue
3. The “i2010” initiative
4. The Review of the Regulatory Framework
5. Conclusion
NGNs: the service providers’ needs

How to integrate

- nomadic users and providers,
- fixed and wireless access,
- internet networks,
- IP-enabled services

into a coherent, secure and high-quality public telecommunication infrastructure
NGNs: the regulatory challenge

How to ensure that all elements are in place to encourage

- investment,
- infrastructure roll-out
- innovation

while securing that general public needs are adequately taken care of

  e.g. interoperability, interconnectivity, emergency communications, privacy protection, legal interception, security and integrity, etc.
Uncertainty

- Operators are preparing to invest in NGNs without knowing which requirements regulators and policy makers will impose

  and

- Policy makers and regulators don’t have enough understanding of NGNs to develop their requirements
Commission workshop on NGNs

- **Brussels, 22 June 2005** – launch of a broad dialogue between stakeholders

- The confrontation between market players came out “loud and clear”
  - Internet industry
  - Competitive carriers
  - Incumbent telecom operators

- Policy makers and regulators have to be vigilant and reflect
From eEurope to i2010

• From eEurope 2005 to i2010...
  • Shall provide the political *chapeau* for activities on...
    - the regulatory framework (including relevant legal and regulatory questions outside the communications area),
    - the audiovisual and media sectors...
    - ...and for research and innovation in relevant areas

*Reinforce the contribution of ICT to Europe’s performance...*
*Creating a favourable environment for competitiveness and growth...*
*Increase the welfare of European citizens through increased use of ICT...*

➢ Broadened scope: all electronic communications, services and media sectors
➢ Stating objectives and benchmarking performance

7 October 2005
I. A Single European Information Space

- The completion of a **Single European Information Space** which promotes an open and competitive internal market for information society and media

II. Innovation and investment in research

- Strengthening **Innovation and Investment** in ICT research to promote growth and more and better jobs

III. Inclusion, better public services and quality of life

- Achieving an **Inclusive European Information Society** that promotes growth and jobs in a manner that is consistent with sustainable development and that prioritises better public services and quality of life
I) A single information space

A Single European Information Space offering affordable and secure high bandwidth communications, rich and diverse content and digital services.

- stimulating growth in the sector
- boosting competitiveness across the economy
- improving European quality of life

Challenges:

- Speed, rich content, interoperability, security

Actions:

- Review electronic communications framework, modernising legal framework for audiovisual, European content support, strategy for secure European Information Society; targeted actions on interoperability (especially DRM)
II) Innovation and Investment in research

World class performance in research and innovation in ICT by closing the gap with Europe’s leading competitors

Actions:

- Research: increase & prioritise for ICT, launch bottleneck-solving initiatives; measures to encourage private investments
- eBusiness policies – barrier removing
- Support tools for new patterns of work
III) Inclusion, better public services and quality of life

An Information Society that is inclusive, provides high quality public services and promotes quality of life.

Actions:

- Policy guidance on eAccessibility and broadband coverage;
- eInclusion initiative proposal,
- Action plan on eGovernment;
- demonstrator projects; three flagship initiatives on Quality of Life-ICT
Four tools for implementation

- **Governance**
- **Legislation**
- **Financial Support**
- **Benchmarking and Monitoring**

- **Communication**

- **FP 6 and 7**
- **CIP**
- **Others (SF)**

- **Foreseen Review of the regulatory frameworks**

- **Specific discussion**
The eCommunications Regulatory Framework (RF)

- **Policy objectives:**
  - Promoting competition
  - Consolidating the internal market
  - Promoting the interests of consumers
Policy objectives and NGNs

• Applying the same policy objectives to NGNs, ensuring that
  • Competition will be strengthened
  • Incentive to invest will be maintained, for both new entrants and incumbents
  • Consumers interests will continue to be protected
The review of the Regulatory Framework

• What needs to be changed in the Regulatory Framework to take account of technological and economic evolutions in the eCommunications market?

• How to ensure that EU citizens will benefit from an advanced, innovative and cost effective eCommunications sector?

The debate is open on defining the future RF!
FCC principles for future regulation

Consumers are entitled to:

1. access the lawful Internet content of their choice
2. run applications and services of their choice
3. connect their choice of legal device
4. competition among network, application, service and content providers
RF Review: a timetable

- Review of scope of Universal service
- Review of EU framework
- Proposals for EP and Council Directives?
- Adoption of Directives by EP and Council
- Transposition of Directives in Member States
- Public Consultation
- 116 Decision: Data retention
- Recommendation on relevant markets

Timeline:
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009
On the web

http://www.europa.eu.int/i2010