



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 2 August 2023

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States,
- Regulators,
- Ministries,
- ITU Sector Members,
- Academia and
- Regional and International Organizations from the Europe Region

Subject: ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe on "Universal Connectivity in Europe: The Current State and Future Prospects", 28 - 29 September 2023, Budva, Montenegro

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)- Electronic Communications and Postal Services (EKIP) Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe on "Universal Connectivity in Europe: The Current State and Future Prospects", which will be held from 28 to 29 September 2023 in Budva, Montenegro. The Forum will be co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Office for Europe and the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services of Montenegro (EKIP).

This Regional Forum will build upon the outcomes of the [Global Symposium for Regulators 2023](#) and its [Best Practice Guidelines](#). The Forum will be held within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on Digital Infrastructure Development which aims to facilitate the attainment of Gigabit connectivity through resilient and synergistic infrastructure development, and an enabling environment ensuring universal coverage.

The event will provide a unique opportunity for high-level dialogue between stakeholders on strategies and policies directed towards broadband development in the region. In this regard, it will facilitate discussions on the challenges and opportunities offered by resilient high-speed networks coupled with regulatory actions that are flexible and collaborative. This event will also offer an opportunity for setting up actions to assist countries on regulatory matters.

It will cover, in particular, the following aspects:

- Market and Technological Trends
- Future of Regulation in the Digital Era
- Consumer information, protection, and rights
- Further Steps Towards the Unique EU Market
- IPv6 Implementation

Representatives of European Regulatory Agencies, Ministries, Operators of Electronic Communications, Academia as well as representatives and experts of international organizations and institutions in charge of the regulation and development policy of electronic communications are invited to take part in this Forum.

All stakeholders are invited to participate as a panelist or a lecturer and are requested to kindly send the proposed title of their presentation by **8 September 2023** to conference@ekip.me (cc: euregion@itu.int) and the presentation itself no later than **25 September 2023**.

Please note that the meeting will be paperless. Documents related to the event, including Agenda, Registration Form and Practical Information for Participants will be posted at [ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe 2023](#) and on [EKIP's dedicated webpage](#). The Forum will be conducted in English and Montenegrin with simultaneous interpretation in both languages.

Please note that the Regulatory Forum will be preceded by a hybrid workshop co-organized as a side event by ITU, EMERG, and EaPeReg. The workshop is titled "Strengthening Broadband Infrastructure and Services across the Europe Region and beyond" and will take place on **28 September from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.** More information on how to register will be provided on the dedicated webpage for the ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe 2023.

Participants who need an entry visa to Montenegro should contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Montenegro for assistance well in advance. A list of embassies and consulates of Montenegro can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <https://www.gov.me/en/diplomatic-missions/embassies-and-consulates-of-montenegro>.

Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe (EURregion@itu.int), and Mr. Boris Jevric, Deputy Executive Director, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (EKIP) (conference@ekip.me), are at your disposal for any further information you might need.

I look forward to welcoming you in Budva.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1

ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe

Universal Connectivity in Europe: The Current State and the Future Prospects

This Regional Forum for Europe is held within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on “Digital infrastructure development” and in follow up to the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2023 and its Best Practice Guidelines. It is organized by the ITU Office for Europe together with the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (EKIP) of Montenegro.

28th – 29th September 2023

Time zone CEST (UTC+2)

[http://itu.int/go/ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe 2023](http://itu.int/go/ITU-EKIP%20Regional%20Regulatory%20Forum%20for%20Europe%202023)

<https://www.ekip.me/page/conferences/medunarodna-konferencija-univerzalna-povezanost-u-evropi-postojece-stanje-i-buduce-perspektive-budva-2023/content>

AGENDA

Wednesday 27th September 2023

[18:30-20:00]	Registration
[20:30-23:30]	Cocktail reception - Hotel SPLENDID CONFERENCE & SPA RESORT

Thursday 28th September 2023

[8:30-9:30]	First Joint Workshop on Strengthening Broadband Infrastructure and Services across the Europe Region and beyond
[9:30 – 10:00]	Break & registration
[10:00 – 11:00]	High-level Opening Segment
[11:00– 11:30]	Group Photo and Coffee Break
[11:30 – 13:00]	Session 1: Market and Technological Trends

Within this session trends regarding the future of networks and business models in the electronic communications sector will be discussed, with a special emphasis on the following: 5G, meeting the growing connectivity requirements for 5G and future networks, investments in the development of infrastructure, security and network security, services, critical infrastructure, sharing of electronic communications infrastructure, and entry of new players into the electronic communications market.

[13:00 – 14:00]	Lunch
[14:00 – 15:30]	Session 2: Future of Regulation in the Digital Era This session will focus on the position, role and independence of NRAs, the position and regulation of OTT and other players on the market, restrictions, and barriers to the entry of new players, investment, and cooperation models that in the new environment could contribute the most to the development of the sector in the years ahead, such as infrastructure sharing, interconnection, and acquisition, cooperation with vertical industries.
[15:30 – 16:00]	Coffee Break
[16:00 – 17:30]	Session 3: Consumer information, protection, and rights This session will address the universal service and ways of financing it, the accessibility of the service in terms of prices and availability for vulnerable categories, coverage, protection of users and their rights, protection against fraud over the Internet, security and safety challenges, personal data protection.
[20:00]	Departure from Hotel SPLENDID CONFERENCE & SPA RESORT by buses (in front of the main entrance of the hotel)
[20:30 – 00:00]	Gala dinner at the Vista Restaurant
Friday 29th September 2023	
[9:00 – 10:30]	Session 4: Further Steps towards the EU Digital Single Market This session will provide an opportunity to discuss the current status of the Western Balkan (WB) countries in light of the accession process to the EU and their integration processes towards the EU Digital Single Market. Topics discussed will be on current roaming agreements between EU and Western Balkan (WB) countries, market analyzes, regulatory measures, technological development and development of new applications, the position and role of the content and application providers in the EU and WB countries, promotion of connectivity and access to Very High-Capacity Networks, promotion of competition and investment efficiency.
[10:30 – 11:00]	Coffee break
[11:00 – 12:20]	Session 5: IPv6 Implementation This session will focus on IPv6 transformation and its potential to accelerate digital innovation and development. It will provide the opportunity to showcase the national case as well as discuss the regional and global trends.
[12:20 – 12:30]	Closing Ceremony
[14:00]	Departure from Hotel SPLENDID CONFERENCE & SPA RESORT by buses (in front of the main entrance of the hotel)
[15:00 – 21:00]	Cruising around the Bay of Kotor