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| Contribution by Bulgaria (Republic of), Croatia (Republic of), the Czech Republic, Denmark, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Romania, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | |
| EVIDENCE OF THE USE OF THE ITRs BY OPERATING AGENCIES IN EUROPE | |
| **Purpose**  The purpose is to provide further evidence regarding the use of the International Telecommunications Regulations.  **Action required**  The Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations is invited to **consider** this document and to note it for **inclusion in the final report**.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *Council Resolution 1379 (Mod. 2023) (Document* [*C23/121*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0121/en)*)* | |

Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom thanks the Chair, Vice Chairs, Members of the Group and Secretariat for their efforts to ensure a positive outcome from the work of the EG-ITRS. The terms of reference of our Group emphasise the importance of ensuring that our review is evidence-based. With this in mind, the CEPT region undertook a survey of European operating agencies, running from May until August this year, in order to obtain evidence of whether and how the ITRs are used.

Our survey found no examples of European operators using the ITRs. We did not find any examples where the existence of two treaties presented any obstacle or problem for the electronic communications industry.

Typical feedback we received, for example, is that relationships with foreign operator customers are settled by commercial agreements and not the ITRs. Some operators said that they supported the opinion of the International Chamber of Commerce stated at the last meeting of the Expert Group. It was noted that other emerging issues are being addressed in the ITU without any need for the ITRs to address them. Some operators said that they had never used the ITRs and saw no future need for the ITRs.

In the light of this evidence, the opinion of the co-signatories of this contribution remains that there is no need to further review the ITRs. All members of the ITU should continue to address the challenge to improve investment, affordability and capacity. But we do not believe that new treaty-level provisions will help any country build an enabling environment to attract investment or to address these challenges. Reviewing the ITRs would only take resources and effort away from urgent work to develop capacity, infrastructure and affordable connectivity.

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