



REG 2: SETTING A NEW AGENDA

Nearly all countries now have a regulatory authority to look after markets which are competitive to differing degrees. A wide array of tools has been developed, including market analyses and impact assessments, plus instruments such as number portability and mandated sharing of infrastructure. Are such tools appropriate in the next stage of market development?

Key questions:

- Is the future more of the same or is there a Regulation 2.0?
- How do we measure competition and can there ever be too much?
- What is the most important tool for future regulation?
- Is there an end-game, a way to withdraw from regulation?

Summary of moderator's statement

What we're facing right now is a very interesting time. We're seeing increasing concentration in businesses. We're seeing the role of government increasing rather than taking a step further back, partly as a result of the demands for broadband and what the citizenry requires, partly in response to the current economic environment.

We're seeing technological changes which are making communications capable of being delivered faster, quicker, more, et cetera. And we're seeing fundamental business models being either undermined or embellished and with this perfect storm we're going to ask ourselves very fundamental questions of: Where are we likely to go to, given where we are at?

Summary of debate

Traditionally, in terms of economic development, three essential infrastructures are mentioned: water, transportation, and energy. There is a fourth essential infrastructure now: that is connectivity (that allows a range of services). As it is as essential as the other three, there is a need to think about what is the right structure for investment and attracting investment in this new infrastructure.