

2016 INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

REGULATING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS MARKET

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BUDVA, MONTENEGRO**

OPENING REMARKS

BY

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His Excellency Dr. Vujica Lazovic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications in the Government of Montenegro

Dr. Saleta Djurovic, President of the Council, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (EKIP), Montenegro

Mr Zoran Sekulic, Executive Director, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (EKIP), Montenegro

Distinguish Heads of National Regulatory Authorities,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Good morning and welcome to the International Regulatory Conference for Europe entitled as “Regulating electronic communications market”.
- It is a great honour to be with you today on the occasion of this meeting that is co-organized by Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) within the framework of the Regional Initiative for Europe on Broadband.
- On behalf of BDT, International Telecommunication Union, please let me thank to National Regulatory Authorities for hosting this important meeting and already longstanding cooperation strengthening regional capacities in the field of regulation.
- Let me also extend our thanks to the Government of Montenegro for continued support and commitment to the cause of building inclusive information society and congratulate to the progress achieved so far.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- ITU is the UN specialized agency in charge of ICTs. Our overarching mission is to Connect the World.
- Today we are seeing a new opportunity arise because of the changing landscape, where we are dealing with the Internet of Everything and yet, billions still unconnected, which also affects their ability to participate in the digital economy – socially, financially, and economically.
- We need to work together to create an enabling regulatory environment between regulators across the sectors and remove the barriers that hinder progress. New regulatory paradigms, including collaborative regulation will deserve much more of our attention in the coming years. We also need greater focus on standardization and interoperability between borders and also between technologies. The ability to offer secure and real time transactions on strong, resilient ICT networks is essential to build consumer trust, and this also requires a focus on protecting privacy.
- To do so, BDT, ITU has successfully conducted the 16th edition of the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) was held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 14 May 2016 entitled as “Building Blocks for Smart Societies in a Connected World: Be Empowered, Be Included!”
- The Global Regulators-Industry Dialogue (GRID) sessions of the GSR were opened to regulators, policy makers and members of ITU's Development Sector in order to foster a dynamic global dialogue among regulators, policy-makers, industry leaders and other key ICT stakeholders, where ITU Sector Members engaged in interactive discussions and identified the best practices moving forward, not only in the ICT/telecommunications sector, but also in terms of how ICT/telecommunications interacts with other regulation so that we can leverage our head start on regulation in a collaborative ICT regulatory environment.
- Moreover, the Telecommunication Development Bureau of ITU is pleased to present the "ICT Regulatory Tracker". It has been built as a tool to monitor and measure the changes taking place in the telecommunication/ ICT regulatory environment.
- The Tracker covers over 150 countries for a period of 13 years, showcasing regulatory progress within the same country, amongst regions and worldwide.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- With more than 3.2 billion people, i.e. 43% of the global population are now connected to the internet and 3.7-5 billion people, unique mobile subscribers, there is still a lot to be done in order to close the digital gap which leads to unstable and unsustainable economic development.
- During the last several years significant policy and regulatory actions have taken place to tackle the problem of high International Mobile Roaming (IMR) service prices at national, regional and international level. The aim has been to reduce what is viewed as excessively

high mobile roaming retail prices but also to find longer term solutions to introduce competition in this market which is still viewed as not being contestable.

- Following the success of the LET'S ROAM THE WORLD: The ITU Global Dialogue on International Mobile Roaming (IMR) that took place at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on 18 September 2015, as part of the Global Initiative launched in 2013 by Mr Brahim Sanou, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau in coordination with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), ITU organized the Consultation meeting on International Mobile Roaming, that was organized in Geneva from 15 to 16 September 2016.
- It will be my pleasure to brief you on the outcomes during our special session dedicated to IMR that requires special attention in this part of Europe.

Dar Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Before I close, let me thank all stakeholders for engaging in the global and regional regulatory actions facilitated by ITU. Shortly in run up toward the World Telecommunication Development Conference we will be engaging you in the brainstorming on our regional priorities in order to ensure that future ITU-D plan of action as well as regional initiatives for Europe address real challenges and opportunities of high importance to Europe.
- Outcomes of this meeting will serve already as an input to our initial discussions at the RDF this week.
- Let me reiterate our invitation to close cooperation to ensure that we strengthen transformative power of regulating communications market and creating an enabling environment for growth of the ICT Ecosystem in Europe.
- Thank you all.

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