

PR 19/2016

10-05-2016

VATM welcomes the in-depth analysis of the Vectoring decision conducted by the Commission Chance to use a better broadband deployment especially in rural areas

Bussels/Cologne, May 10th, 2016. "The European Commission has fundamental concerns about the extensive Vectoring-monopoly in the nearshore areas at the main distribution frame", welcomes VATM Director Jürgen Grützner the initiation of the so called Phase II in Brussels. The EU Commission has now time to analyze in more depth the Vectoring decision of the German regulatory authority for additionally 3 months. Brussels argues that competition as well as investment for gigabit networks (FTTB/FTTH) are put at risk.

"A real veto right does not exist indeed, but we hope for a reasonable consensus-based solution which takes into account the concerns of the advisory board of the German regulator Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA), politics as well as 25 associations and organizations. These have not been sufficiently taken up in the decision", says Jürgen Grützner.

According to VATM, Deutsche Telekom has to fulfill the request made by the advisory board to cover all nearshore areas, where they deploy, with speeds of 50 Mbits/s to at least 90%. "The competitors offered 90%", underlines Jürgen Grützner. "Companies must have a chance to continue to invest. The same is true for municipalities which aim at deploying contiguous areas and not patchworks where the most lucrative areas are taken by Deutsche Telekom", said Grützner. Deutsche Telekom neither complies with the requirements made by the German government, i.e. to ensure 100% gap-free deployment, nor the 90% requirement of the advisory board. Grützner says: "In rural areas, the Deutsche Telekom offer can partly cover 75%, according to our calculation". According to the concept of Deutsche Telekom, thousands of the street cabinets - the grey boxes on the side of the streets - remain underdeveloped in terms of fiber, so that local citizens and businesses do not receive 50 Mbit/s. This is especially true for the rural areas which are difficult to deploy.

Finally, the much-needed further deployment with fiber to the home and business will be slower and more complicated in rural areas. Therefore, the Bundeskartellamt (Federal Cartel Office), amongst others, published an adverse opinion and suggested alternative solutions such as the integration into the support framework of the German government as a more meaningful solution. "The times of monopolies must finally come to an end. We have worked for 18 years that competition provides consumers with better quality at reasonable prices. The wheel cannot be turned back now", warns VATM Director Jürgen Grützner.

Informations

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