

Recommendation on Relevant Markets

Why the Recommendation is Indispensable for a Functioning Market

Competition is the foundation of a dynamic, innovative, and consumer-driven telecommunications sector. It ensures not only better prices and services for consumers and businesses but also drives technological progress and enhances resilience across the entire economy. However, competition does not happen by chance – **it must be actively safeguarded through clear regulatory frameworks and effective enforcement mechanisms.**

At the core of this effort stands the **EU-Recommendation on Relevant Markets**. Far more than just a list, this Recommendation is the key instrument that enables National Regulatory Authorities to act swiftly and predictably in preventing market abuses where **significant market power (SMP) persists**. It defines the critical areas where intervention is necessary to sustain competition and uphold operator diversity – a prerequisite for ensuring a genuine consumer choice and vibrant market dynamics. To be clear: No competitor of Deutsche Telekom could operate without SMP based regulation and regulated access.

Without the Recommendation, regulators would face an almost insurmountable barrier to protecting competition. Every attempt to intervene would become a complex, uncertain, and heavily burdensome process – effectively paralysing enforcement. Where SMP still exists – as is the case in Germany, where approx. 70 % of all broadband connections are still provided via Deutsche Telekom's platform¹ – the absence of a strong presumption for regulatory intervention would leave all alternative operators vulnerable. **The consequences would be severe: a steady erosion of provider diversity, shrinking consumer options, and the consolidation of monopolistic structures that stifle innovation and drive-up costs.**

The removal of the Recommendation would not simply weaken the regulatory framework – **it would dismantle the very foundation of competition on the telecommunications market.** Once market dynamics are lost, they are nearly impossible to restore. **Remonopolization would inevitably follow, setting the German telecommunications sector back by decades, undermining private investment, and ultimately harming consumers, businesses, and Europe's broader economic competitiveness.**

For these reasons, **ANGA, BREKO and VATM strongly urge that the current Recommendation be preserved in its full scope.** Only a clear and enforceable SMP-based framework can ensure that competition continues to thrive, that consumers retain meaningful choices among diverse operators, and that Europe's ambition for digital leadership remains within reach.

Competition needs effective tools. The Recommendation on Relevant Markets is that tool. Without it, there is no competition – only a return to monopoly.

¹ VATM, DIALOG CONSULT (2025): 26. TK-Marktanalyse Deutschland 2025: Ergebnisse einer Befragung der Mitgliedsunternehmen des VATM im ersten Quartal 2025, P.15. ([Marktstudie-2025-V10.indd](#), last accessed 26. May 2025).



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