

# **Broadband strategies in the European Union**

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## **Broadband strategies in the European Union: 3 hot issues**

- 1. Basic broadband for all citizens**
- 2. Promote high-speed broadband**
- 3. The role of wireless networks**

## Goals set by the Digital Agenda for Europe

**By 2013, basic broadband coverage for all EU citizens. Estimated cost for securing 2 Mbps coverage: €11-14 bn over a five year period (around 25% of total investment by the EU telecoms sector in 2008)**

**By 2020, fast broadband coverage at 30 Mbps available to all citizens. At least half European households subscribing to broadband access at 100 Mbps. Estimated cost €181-268 bn (around 20 times higher than the cost of universal basic broadband)**

## Basic broadband for all vs USO

- 1. The USO in the 2002 Regulatory Framework included functional Internet access confined to narrowband connections (56 Kbps).  
Financing.**
- 2. The 2009 Telecoms Reform package**
- 3. The EC's public consultation on the future of USO**
- 4. Who should fund an extended USO: the state budget or telecoms operators?**

## The EC's Recommendation on NGAs

### The context:

- ✓ **Delay of Europe in the deployment of NGAs. Better situation in Central and Eastern Europe**
- ✓ **Need to preserve incentives to invest vs need to avoid remonopolisation**

### Main aspects:

- ✓ **The final version has departed for the initial approach (granting access to the deepest possible elements of the network) going back to the ladder of investment approach adopted by copper networks.**
- ✓ **Asset prices should incorporate a risk premium**
- ✓ **Need to have all remedies (including bit stream) from the outset**
- ✓ **Geographical segmentation**

### Impact:

- ✓ **Effects on harmonization, incentives to invest, competition, certainty**

## **Spectrum policy and the role of wireless broadband**

**Wireless networks, a key role in delivering broadband for all**

**The Radio Spectrum Policy Program (strategic framework for European spectrum policy for the next five years)**

- ✓ **Member States Could ensure that sufficient spectrum is allocated to mobile operators to achieve the target of 30 Mgbps for all**
- ✓ **Deadline for making the 800 Mhz band available for electronic communications services: 1 January 2013**