

The Consumer Voice in Europe

Protecting consumers' interests in the Digital Economy

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Telecom markets score poorly with consumers



The telecom cluster includes the markets for fixed and mobile telephone services along with the markets for internet provision and TV subscriptions, which together make up 3 % of the household budget. These markets are characterised by a limited number of potential suppliers. Telecom services are generally used on a daily or frequent basis, whereas the decision on potential supplier is often made from a long-term perspective, usually through the signing of a contract.



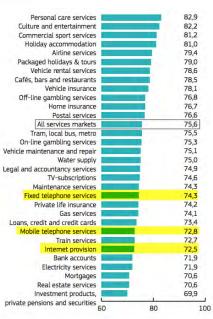


%Switching 17.9%

Ease of switching 6.9

High incidence of problems and complaints

This market cluster is rated as middle to low performing, with relatively low scores for trust, choice of providers and overall consumer satisfaction, and the highest incidence of problems and complaints of all the market clusters. On the positive side, the scores for comparability and ease of switching are slightly above the average of all services markets, while actual switching rates are the highest among all cluster groups.





Competition must continue being the rule

- The Telecoms Regulatory Framework must continue having the promotion of competition as a fundamental guiding objective.
- Competition is a pre-condition for consumer choice, higher quality, and more investments.
- A virtuous circle between consumer protection, competition and the necessary investments must be found. These can't be traded-off against each other.























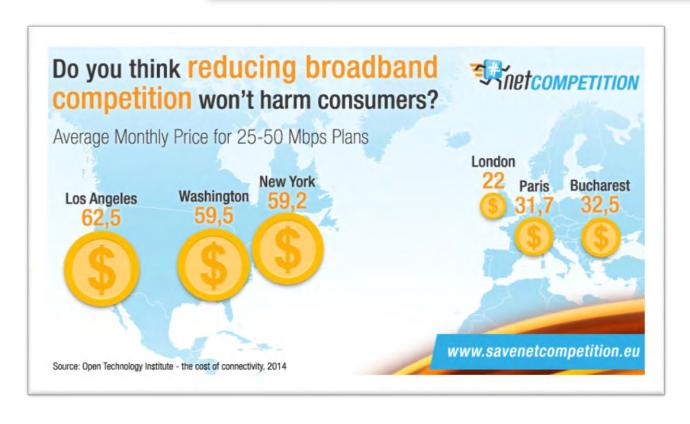






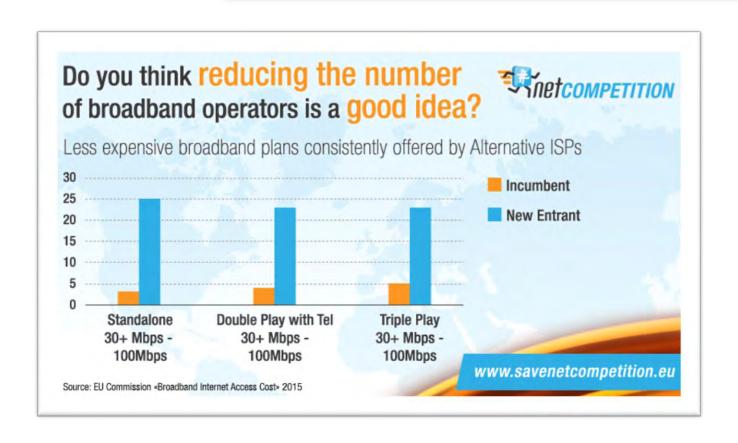














Update of sector's consumer protection rules needed

- The Universal Service Directive needs to be updated and consumer protection rules reinforced.
- There are still too many barriers to switching in the sector, they need to be removed.
- Guaranteed basic telephony and quality Internet access services are necessary for the most vulnerable.



Our members have to correct market failures













Time for a real Single Market

- The end of roaming needs to become a reality for all consumers, and cross-border services need to be addressed.
- A Digital Single Market requires eliminating geo-blocking in e-commerce and of audiovisual content.





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