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The Common Union Toolbox for Connectivity Incentives for Investment

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**The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Commission*

Accelerating Connectivity

- The 5G Action Plan
- The European Electronic Communications Code
- The Implementing Regulation on **small cells** (SAWAPs)
- COVID pandemic: Secure, advanced and sustainable electronic communications networks are crucial → **Connectivity Toolbox**
- EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF - RRFs)
- The **Digital Decade Policy Programme**, setting up an annual cooperation cycle (EC-MSs) to achieve the common objectives and targets for 2030, towards Europe's digital transformation



The Connectivity Toolbox - Background

- **Commission Recommendation of 18.09.2020** calls on Member States to agree on a common **Union Toolbox of best practices** on connectivity
- Timely deployment of **very high capacity networks** and investment-friendly access to **5G radio spectrum** are major enablers for future digital services and digital economy

The Connectivity Toolbox - Objectives

- The [Connectivity Toolbox](#), agreed on **25 March 2021**, aims at fostering connectivity across the EU by
 - (i) reducing the cost and increasing the speed of deploying VHCN, and
 - (ii) ensuring a timely and investment-friendly access to 5G radio spectrum
- Contains **best practices** proposed by Member States
- The **39 Connectivity Toolbox's best practices** are based on the policy options provided under the **European Electronic Communications Code** and the **Broadband Cost Reduction Directive**



The Connectivity Toolbox - Categories of best practices (1/2)

- Streamlining permit granting procedures
- Improving transparency through the single information point
- Expanding the right of access to existing physical infrastructure
- Dispute resolution mechanism
- Reducing the environmental footprint of networks
- Environmental impact assessment

The Connectivity Toolbox - Categories of best practices (2/2)

- **Spectrum-related incentives for investment** (e.g. adequate reserve prices, combine coverage obligations with financial incentives)
- **Enhanced coordination at Union level on spectrum assignment for cross-border industrial use** (e.g. facilitate interoperability through the development and application of standards)
- **Aspects related to electromagnetic fields and public health** (e.g. inform the public on the compliance of RBS installations with applicable EMF limits)

The Connectivity Toolbox - Incentives for Investment

The following best practices were identified/agreed to **incentivise 5G network investment**:

- Promote adequate **reserve prices**
- Timely **availability of 5G** harmonised bands
- **Flexible individual authorisation** of the **26 GHz** band
- Review **National Spectrum Plans** on a regular basis
- Pay **award fees** in instalments
- Combine **coverage obligations with financial incentives**
- Promote the opportunity of **infrastructure sharing**
- Structure of **recurrent spectrum fees** to incentivise roll-out
- Use **financial aid** as a complement to incentives investments

The Connectivity Toolbox – Implementation, Challenges

Implementation

- MS have the **discretion but also the responsibility** to implement the Toolbox
- By **30 April 2021**: each MS should have provided the Commission with a **roadmap** for the implementation of the Toolbox
- By **30 April 2022**: each MS should have **reported on the implementation** of the Toolbox

Key Challenges

- Submitted roadmaps **not ambitious** in taking-up many best practices
- **Identifying vertical use-cases** with cross-border dimension
- Practical steps towards a **coordinated EU approach** to ensuring timely access to 5G spectrum

Thank you!

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