



Margrethe Vestager
Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

Thierry Breton
Member of the European Commission

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Ares (2022) 6882312

Dear Dr Komaitis,

We thank you, and your cosignatories, for your letter. You warn the Commission about the risks of adopting a proposal implementing the 'Sender Party Network Pays' principle in Europe, which in your view would infringe Net Neutrality, harm Europe's digital agenda, break the competitive market for transit and peering, and make Europe more vulnerable to attacks.

Let us clarify at the outset: the Commission has made a strong commitment to protecting a neutral and open internet where content, services, and applications are not unjustifiably blocked or degraded, in Europe as well as globally. This is not only enshrined in the Open Internet Regulation, but it is also one of the fundamental principles we have included in the European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade¹.

In the European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles, which was signed by European the Parliament, the Council, and the European Commission on 14 December 2022, we have also included a principle according to which all market players benefiting from the digital transformation should make a fair and proportionate contribution to public goods, services, and infrastructure, for the benefit of all Europeans.

This principle could be implemented in a variety of ways other than the Sending Network Party Pays mechanism, and therefore should not be assimilated with it.

More importantly, the issue of fair contribution to the costs of network infrastructure – in full respect of EU net neutrality rules – is part of a broader reflection to ensure the right investment environment for an appropriate network architecture across the EU.

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¹ COM(2022) 28. 26.1.2022

Dr Konstantinos Komaitis
Internet policy expert

E-mail: konstantinos@komaitis.org

A broad and thorough reflection is required in light of the profound technological and market changes taking place in digital. The amount of data exchanged – and harvested – is larger than ever and will increase. The metaverse and virtual worlds, the rapid move towards cloud, the use of innovative technologies online are making this even more evident. But there seems to be a paradox between increasing volumes of data on the infrastructures and allegedly decreasing returns and appetite to invest, especially for mobile networks.

Therefore, we want to launch a thorough discussion on the vision for the future of the connectivity infrastructure in the form of a consultation as announced by Commissioner Breton, to be launched at the latest by early 2023. There have been exchanges with various digital players on this issue in the past months. It would be important to open up the debate so as to have a more comprehensive conversation with all interested parties with a view to have a solid base of evidence to act on implementing this vision.

Yours sincerely,



Margrethe Vestager



Thierry Breton