



Telecom Rules

The European Union's **EU4Digital** initiative supports efforts to achieve a **common roaming space** among Eastern Partner countries by late 2020 or early 2021, to strengthen the independence of **national regulatory authorities**, and to develop coordinated strategies for **spectrum distribution**.



Roaming

Develop and implement a **common approach** to **roaming pricing** in the region.

Regional roaming agreement expected by **late 2020 or early 2021**, entry into force from **1 January 2022**.

87% fall in roaming prices is estimated for customers in the six partner countries.

EU and Eastern partner ministers have agreed to explore the possibility of a **common EU-EaP roaming space**.



Regulation

Strengthen the organisational and financial **independence of national regulatory authorities** for electronic communications.

Independent regulators ensure **balance** between **competition, investment** and **consumer interests**, while supporting the development of communications markets, services and networks.

Aim to have independent regulators in **at least five** partner countries.



Spectrum

Support a coordinated approach for **freeing 700 MHz** in the six Eastern partner countries.

Regional spectrum agreement expected by **late 2020 or early 2021**: it would ensure harmonised usage of spectrum resources among partner countries and with the EU.

Aim to release the 700 MHz band from existing systems and assign it to international mobile telecommunications services, **in particular 5G**.

The **EU4Digital Broadband** project implemented by the World Bank supports **accelerated broadband development** in the Eastern Partnership region through the roll-out of national broadband strategies, in line with similar EU strategies.

By delivering these objectives in the area of **Telecom rules**, EU support will bring **clear benefits to citizens and businesses** in the Eastern Partnership region, in the form of **lower roaming costs**, stronger regulation that will lead to greater **competition** and **investments**, as well as **protecting consumer rights**, and the prospect of new **wireless broadband opportunities** and **5G**.

Expected timeline for Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA)



For the six Eastern partner countries the **overall positive impact of the roaming agreement** is estimated at

€4.6 million.



At the end of the **transition period** (in **2026**), it is expected that retail prices for consumers of roaming services in the region

will be **reduced by 87%**.



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