

MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS

PRESS KIT & PROGRAMME

25-28 February 2018



BUILDING A PRO-INNOVATION AND PRO-INVESTMENT REGULATION

1. DEVICES, THE WEAK LINK IN ACHIEVING AN OPEN INTERNET

In 2015, the European Open Internet regulation enshrined the principle of an open internet, and gave national regulators (Arcep in France) the task of ensuring net neutrality. Arcep nevertheless believes that internet access does not end with network access, and that other intermediaries may have the power to impede both consumers and developers' ability to access and offer certain content and services on the internet. This is particularly true of devices (smartphones, tablets,...), their operating systems and their app stores which are controlled by a small number of economic actors. While, tomorrow voice assistants will shape the way we accede to the Internet, the fact remains that you cannot connect to the internet without a device.

Arcep has has worked on the issue for two years and released its [complete report](#) on 15 February 2018.

In its report, Arcep sets out a series of proposals for guaranteeing an open internet, in other words for giving users back their freedom of choice. These courses of action follow five main avenues:

1. Clarify the scope of the open internet by enshrining the principle of users' freedom to choose their content and applications, regardless of the device;
2. Employ data-driven regulation and provide users, both consumers and businesses, with information that is both transparent and comparable;
3. Increase market liquidity, and the freedom to switch from one environment to another;
4. Lift certain restrictions that leading device market stakeholders impose artificially on users, and on content and service developers;
5. Take swift action, thanks to an agile procedure for supporting businesses, and particularly SMEs and start-ups, when they encounter questionable practices.

Arcep plans on doing its part by proposing pragmatic and quick impact courses of action that it recommends to be put into effect immediately at the national level, with the goal of stimulating actions at the European level.

Read: [Techcrunch.com, France's telecom regulator thinks net neutrality should also apply to devices](#), 15 February 2018

2. VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE WATCHWORD FOR NET NEUTRALITY.

Through a constructive dialogue with national players and its European counterparts, Arcep ensures the proper implementation of the European Regulation on the French market.

Arcep publishes every year a state of play in its report on the "State of the Internet in France".

It will also be continue to invest in the work of BEREC as Vice President in charge of Net Neutrality while BEREC will pursue foster international cooperation over Net Neutrality (with India, Canada, etc.)

3. ARCEP LAUNCHED A CALL FOR FULL-SCALE 5G PILOTS, TO WHICH ANY INTERESTED PARTY CAN RESPOND.

As of today, Arcep can issue temporary frequency authorisations to develop 5G pilots, notably in the two, above-mentioned bands, within the limits of their availability.

In the 3400 - 3800 MHz band, frequencies are already available in the metropolitan areas of Lyon, Bordeaux, Nantes, Lille, Le Havre, Saint-Étienne, Douai, Montpellier and Grenoble. Arcep is typically encouraging pilots in the field of connected ports, airports, roads, utilities and industries.

This is not an exhaustive list and may change over time: interested parties are invited to contact Arcep if they plan on deploying networks in other frequency ranges (especially 26 GHz), or in other geographical locations. Note that the 700 MHz band has been attributed in France in 2015.

4. REGARDING THE INTERNET OF THINGS, ARCEP WILL WORK TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT OF TRUST NEEDED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF IOT START-UPS

At Arcep, we believe that main innovations can also come from the margins. That is why we want to make it possible for new players (start-ups) and new models (unlicensed spectrum) to enter the IoT world.

- The creation of a [regulatory sandbox](#), providing the ability to operate within a relaxed regulatory framework for up two years.
- The creation of a [portal dedicated to unlicensed frequencies](#), including a user reporting tool, for the sake of transparency and keeping the users of unlicensed spectrum (e.g. LPWAN solutions like Sigfox and Lora) informed.

5. IN 2018, ARCEP WILL DEEPEN AND DEVELOP ITS PROGRAM “REGULATING WITH DATA”, GIVING EACH AND EVERY USER THE POWER TO BE A MICRO-REGULATOR

- The "[Mon réseau mobile](#)" website will include more homogeneous maps from operators, enhanced for the mobile internet (3G/4G) and overseas markets.
- **Detailed maps on fixed Internet access will inventory the different fixed access technologies** (copper, cable, fibre, UFB, wireless, fixed 4G, etc.). Every household should thus be able to see the options available to them.
- All Arcep data will also be available as [open data](#).

Arcep will also make progress on the **partnership and crowdsourcing** front.

- On mobile, Arcep has already [partnered with the Qosbee app](#) which allows users to determine the best mobile operator for them on a tailor-made approach, according to their needs, thanks to the regulator's data. The call to mobilise other crowdsourcing players to contribute to measuring quality of service will continue.

6. BASED ON ARCEP'S PROPOSALS, AND AS PART OF A DIALOGUE WITH MOBILE OPERATORS, THE GOVERNMENT REACHED AN HISTORIC AGREEMENT THAT AIMS TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGH STANDARD MOBILE COVERAGE FOR FRANCE.

On 14 January, the French government, Arcep and operators announced that they had reached a [new deal](#) for telecoms, each one committing to doing its part to bring timely 4G to the entire country.

An unprecedented shift in ambition is thus underway. Facilitated by increased network **sharing**, which ensures more efficient rollouts, along with a planned **simplification** of the measures contained in the new housing bill, stepping up the pace of deployment for new mobile phone equipment will **significantly improve the user experience of mobile coverage in every part of the country.**

Information on the progress of these deployments will be fully transparent. It will be provided by a quarterly Arcep scoreboard on mobile coverage in sparsely populated areas, and by the coverage maps that Arcep publishes on the website: [monreseaumobile.fr](#). **These new obligations** will be written into operators' frequency licences in 2018. **They will be binding**, and failure to meet them could result in sanctions from Arcep.

In early 2018, Arcep will thus begin work on the reallocation of the 900/1800/2100 MHz frequency bands whose licences are set to expire in the coming years, by designing a

procedure that makes regional development targets a priority, by incorporating these targets, while ensuring that licensing fees remain stable.

7. PRO-INVESTMENT REGULATION

Three years ago, Arcep has placed pro-investment regulation at the core of its action. It is all about putting today the focus on the country's equipment in networks. Concretely, it consists in operating all the levers to incite operators to invest, i.e. with classical and less conventional tools, notably by regulating with data. In early 2018, we see an unprecedented rise in investments, approaching 9 billion euros a year. Arcep intends to pursue its action by building on this dynamic.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF SÉBASTIEN SORIANO

ARCEP CHAIRMAN AND BEREC VICE-CHAIR

Sunday 25 Feb

16h00 European Internet Forum
High-level Roundtable

Monday 26 Feb

9h00 GSMA-BEREC roundtable
11h00 4YFN
14h30 Indian Regulator (Chairman)
17h15 Business France - La French Tech

Tuesday 27 Feb

14h15 5G – PPP (Chairman)
15h30 Korean Regulator (Chairman)

Wednesday 28 Feb

11h30 GSMA Policy Roundtable
"Megacities - The Next Digital Frontier?"

In addition to a series of meeting with start-ups, manufacturers, operators, and public stakeholders on 5G, devices and mobile coverage

MANIFESTO

ARCEP,

NETWORKS AS COMMON GOODS

Internet, fixed and mobile telecom and postal networks constitute the “Infrastructures of freedom”. Freedom of expression, freedom to communicate, freedom to access knowledge and to share it, but also freedom of enterprise and innovation, which are key to the country’s ability to compete on the global stage, to grow and provide jobs.

Because it is essential in all open, innovative and democratic societies to be able to enjoy these freedoms fully, national and European institutions work to ensure that these networks develop as a “common good,” regardless of their ownership structure, in other words that they meet high standards in terms of accessibility, universality, performance, neutrality, trustworthiness and fairness.

Democratic institutions therefore concluded that independent state intervention was needed to ensure that no power, be it economic or political, is in a position to control or impede users’ (consumers, businesses, associations, etc.) ability to communicate.

France’s Electronic Communications and Postal Regulatory Authority (Arcep), a neutral and expert arbitrator with the status of quasi autonomous non-governmental organisation, is the architect and guardian of communications networks in France.

As network architect, Arcep creates the conditions for a plural and decentralised network organisation. It guarantees the market is open to new players and to all forms of innovation, and works to ensure the sector’s competitiveness through pro-investment competition. Arcep provides the framework for the networks’ interoperability so that users perceive them as one, despite their diversity: easy to access and seamless. It coordinates effective interaction between public and private sector stakeholders when local authorities are involved as market players.

As network guardian, Arcep enforces the principles that are essential to guaranteeing users’ ability to communicate. It oversees the provision of universal services and assists public authorities in expanding digital coverage nationwide. It ensures users’ freedom of choice and access to clear and accurate information, and safeguards against possible net neutrality violations. From a more general perspective, Arcep fights against any type of silo that could threaten the freedom to communicate on the networks, and therefore keeps a close watch over the new intermediaries that are the leading Internet platforms.