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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
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Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications - General approach

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In September 2016, as part of its DSM Strategy for Europe the Commission presented a connectivity package to reform the 2009 regulatory framework for electronic communications. This package was *inter alia* composed of a proposal for a Directive establishing the European Electronic Communications Code¹ (CODE) and of a new proposal for the Regulation establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC).

¹ Doc. 12252/1/16

2. In its proposals the Commission foresaw that BEREC would be entrusted with new tasks and decision making powers. In addition, it proposed to streamline to a certain extent its structure and processes by merging the BEREC Office, which is already an EU agency, and BEREC into one single EU agency.
3. Under the Slovak Presidency; the Commission presented the proposals to the Working Party on Telecommunications (WP TELE) which also examined the connectivity package's Impact Assessment². During the Impact Assessment's discussion, many Member States criticised the lack of sound justification for the simplification of BEREC's structure.
4. Since 11 October, when the Estonian Presidency received a negotiating mandate from COREPER on the CODE, WP TELE has examined five presidency compromises on the BEREC Regulation.
5. In view of being able to discuss BEREC in parallel with the CODE in the negotiations with the European Parliament, **the Presidency is now seeking the agreement of COREPER to forward the Presidency compromise proposal set in Annex I to the TTE Council in view of the adoption of a General Approach on 4 December.**
6. In Section II, the main changes made to the Commission proposal are explained, while Section III details the changes made since the last Working Party document (doc. 14132/17).

² Doc. 09355/17

II. CHANGES COMPARED TO COMMISSION PROPOSAL

7. The main changes requested by WP TELE to the original Commission proposal are linked to:
- i. the necessary alignment with the provisions of the COREPER mandate on the CODE, and
 - ii. the request by Member States to keep nearly all the characteristics of the current structure as set out in Regulation (EC) No. 1211/2009:

On the alignment with the CODE mandate:

8. The responsibilities and tasks of BEREC have been aligned with the CODE mandate. In particular, the text explicitly takes away the possibility for BEREC to adopt binding decisions, leading also to the deletion of provisions relating to a Board of Appeals.
9. In areas where the CODE mandate enables competent national authorities other than the NRAs to perform duties, the Presidency compromise clarifies how competent authorities can interact with BEREC.

On keeping the current structure of BEREC and the BEREC Office:

10. Member States decided to keep the current two-tier structure of BEREC and the BEREC Office, including the legal personality only for the BEREC Office. Thus, the distinction between the Board of Regulators and the Management Board and their respective tasks has been reintroduced.
11. In addition, the Presidency compromise reintroduces the two-thirds majority voting rule for the Board of Regulators, the way the Director is appointed, renewed or removed from Office, as well as the clause ensuring that the BEREC Office has staff strictly limited to the number required for the performance of its duties.

On improving the current framework of operation of BEREC:

12. The Presidency compromise further strengthens the independence of BEREC, clarifies the transparency rules and how BEREC might report on his/her duties to the European Parliament and Council, and adds further clarity about the participation of third countries and the working arrangements BEREC can sign with other Union bodies, authorities of third countries and/or international organisations.
13. With a few specific exceptions requested by Member States, the text foresees a simple majority voting rule in the Management Board, as proposed by the Commission.
14. Finally, the text now makes an explicit reference to the 2010 decision to keep the seat of the BEREC Office in RIGA.

III. CHANGES COMPARED TO DOC. 14132/17

15. In the Annex changes compared to the Commission proposal are in **bold** or ~~strikethrough~~. Changes compared to doc. 14132/17 are underlined. Text in *italics* signals text from the original Commission proposal that has been moved within the Presidency compromise (e.g redistribution of tasks between the Board of Regulators and the Management Board).
16. In **Recital 9a** text is clarified in relation to the documents which should be published by BEREC.
17. In **Recital 10** the word ‘relevant’ has been added to align terminology.
18. In **Recital 12** a reference to ‘replacements’ is added.
19. Minor corrections are introduced in **Recitals 22 and 28**.

20. In **Recital 25** text is clarified in relation to the considerations to be made by BEREC following a request to share information.
 21. In **Article 2(1)(a)** an addition clarifies BEREC role in relation to the modification of this Regulation or the CODE.
 22. The change in **Article 2(1)(f)** is an alignment of terminology with Article 35 of the CODE.
 23. In **Article 2(3)(a)** the last sentence is removed to avoid repetition.
 24. In **Article 4(2)** reference to Articles 7 and 8 of the CODE in relation to the alternates is removed.
 25. A title has been added to **Article 21a** on the number of staff of BEREC Office.
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Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

**establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) and
the BEREC Office**

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 114 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee³,

After consulting the Committee of the Regions⁴,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

³ OJ C [...].

⁴ OJ C,[...].

Whereas:

- (1) Directive [...] of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵ ('the Directive'), which establishes a number of tasks for the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications ('BEREC'), ~~and Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council~~ aims to create an internal market for electronic communications within the Union while ensuring a high level of investment, innovation and consumer protection through enhanced competition.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 531/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶ complements and supports, in so far as Union-wide roaming is concerned, the rules provided for by the regulatory framework for electronic communications and establishes certain tasks for BEREC.
- (3) Regulation (EU) No 2015/2120 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷ establishes common rules to safeguard equal and non-discriminatory treatment of traffic in the provision of internet access services and related end-users' rights and sets up a new retail pricing mechanism for Union-wide regulated roaming services. This regulation establishes additional tasks for BEREC, in particular the issuing of guidelines on the implementation of national regulatory authorities ('NRAs') obligations in relation to open internet access as well as reporting and consultation on draft implementing acts to be adopted by the Commission in relation to Union-wide roaming.

⁵ Directive [...] of the European Parliament and of the Council of [...] establishing the European Electronic Communications Code (OJ L [...]).

⁶ Regulation (EC) No 531/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2012 on roaming on public mobile communications networks within the Union (OJ L 172, 30.6.2012, p.10).

⁷ Regulation (EU) No 2015/2120 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 laying down measures concerning open internet access and amending Directive 2002/22/EC on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services (OJ L 310, 26.11.2015, p.1)

- (4) BEREC and the Office ('BEREC Office') were established by Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸. BEREC replaced the European Regulators Group ('ERG')⁹ and was meant to contribute to the development and better functioning of the internal market for electronic communications networks and services by aiming to ensure a consistent implementation of the regulatory framework for electronic communications. The BEREC Office was established as a Community body with legal personality to carry out the tasks referred to in Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009, in particular the provision of professional and administrative support services to BEREC.
- (4a) By Decision 2010/349/EU¹⁰, the representatives of the governments of the Member States decided that the BEREC Office would have its seat in Riga. The Seat Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the BEREC Office entered into force on 5 August 2011.**

⁸ Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) and the Office (OJ L 337, 18.12.2009, p.1).

⁹ Commission **Decision 2002/627/EC of 29 July 2002 establishing the European Regulators Group for Electronic Communications Networks and Services** (OJ L 200, 30.7.2002, p. 38).

¹⁰ **Decision taken by common accord between the representatives of the governments of the Member States of 31 May 2010 on the location of the seat of the Office of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) (2010/349/EU) (OJ L156, 23.6.2010, p.12).**

- (5) In its Communication of 6 May 2015 entitled ‘A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe’¹¹, the Commission envisaged presenting proposals in 2016 for an ambitious overhaul of the regulatory framework for electronic communications focusing *inter alia* on a more effective regulatory institutional framework in order to make the telecoms rules fit for purpose as part of the creation of the right conditions for the digital single market. These include the deployment of very high capacity connectivity networks, more coordinated management of radio spectrum for wireless networks and creating a level playing field for advanced digital networks and innovative services. The Communication pointed out that the changing market and technological environment make it necessary to strengthen the institutional framework by enhancing the role of BEREC.
- (6) In its Resolution of 19 January 2016 ‘Towards a Digital Single Market Act’, the European Parliament called on the Commission to integrate further the digital single market by ensuring that a more efficient institutional framework is in place. ~~It can do this by strengthening the role, capacity and decision-making powers of BEREC in order to allow it to foster the consistent implementation of the regulatory framework for electronic communications, to enable an efficient oversight of BEREC over the development of the single market and to help it to resolve cross-border disputes. The European Parliament also stresses, in this regard, the need to improve the financial and human resources and further enhance the governance structure of BEREC.~~

¹¹ COM(2015) 192 final.

- (7) BEREC and the BEREC Office have made a positive contribution towards a consistent implementation of the regulatory framework for electronic communications.

Notwithstanding, there are still significant disparities between Member States as regards regulatory practice. ~~Moreover, the governance structure of BEREC and the BEREC Office is cumbersome and gives rise to unnecessary administrative burden.~~ In order to ensure ~~efficiency gains and synergies and~~ to further contribute to the development of the internal market for electronic communications throughout the Union as well as to the promotion of access to, and take-up of, very high capacity data connectivity, competition in the provision of electronic communications networks, services and associated facilities and the interests of the citizens of the Union, this regulation aims to strengthen the role of BEREC ~~and enhance its governance structure by establishing BEREC as a Union decentralised agency.~~ This also corresponds to the ~~need to reflect the significantly~~ enhanced role played by BEREC following Regulation (EC) No 531/2012 which establishes tasks for BEREC in relation to Union-wide roaming, Regulation (EU) No 2015/2120 which establishes tasks for BEREC in relation to open internet access and Union-wide roaming, and the Directive which establishes a significant number of new tasks for BEREC such as issuing ~~decisions and~~ guidelines on several topics, reporting on technical matters, keeping registers, **lists or databases** and delivering opinions on internal market procedures for draft national measures on market regulation ~~as well as on assignments of rights of use for radio spectrum.~~

- (8) The need for the regulatory framework for electronic communications to be consistently applied in all Member States is essential for the successful development of an internal market for electronic communications throughout the Union and the promotion of access to, and take-up of, very high capacity data connectivity, of competition in the provision of electronic communications networks, services and associated facilities and of the interests of the citizens of the Union. In view of market and technological developments, which often entails an increased cross-border dimension, and to the experience so far in ensuring a consistent implementation in the electronic communications field, it is necessary to build on the work of BEREC and the BEREC Office ~~and further develop them into a fully fledged agency.~~

- (9) The ~~agency~~ **BEREC Office** should, **where appropriate**, be governed and operated in line with the principles of the Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission of 19 July 2012 on decentralised agencies ('Common Approach')¹². ~~Due to the established image of BEREC and the costs that a modification of its name would entail, the new agency should retain the name of BEREC~~
- (9a) **BEREC should provide expertise and establish confidence by virtue of its independence, the quality of its advice and information, the transparency of its procedures and methods of operation, and its diligence in performing its tasks. The independence of BEREC should not prevent the Board of Regulators from deliberating on the basis of drafts prepared by working groups. BEREC should make public Any adopted final opinion, guideline, report, recommendation and best practice, as well as any commissioned study which is commissioned to support its tasks, should be made public.**
- (10) BEREC, as a technical body with expertise on electronic communications and composed of representatives from NRAs and the Commission, is best placed to be entrusted with tasks such as ~~deciding on certain issues with a cross-border dimension~~, contributing to efficient internal market procedures for draft national measures (~~both~~ as regards market regulation and assignments of rights of use for radio spectrum), providing the necessary guidelines to NRAs **and other relevant competent authorities** in order to ensure common criteria and a consistent regulatory approach, and keeping certain registries, **and databases and lists** at Union level. This is without prejudice to the tasks established for NRAs, which are closest to the electronic communications markets and their local conditions. In order to carry out its tasks, ~~the agency~~ **BEREC** would require adequate financial and human resources and would also continue the pooling of expertise from NRAs.

¹² Joint Statement of the Parliament, Council and the Commission on decentralised agencies of 19 July 2012.

- (10a) BEREC should aim to ensure the participation of all NRAs in the fulfilment of its regulatory tasks and its functioning. Where appropriate and depending on the allocation of tasks in each Member State, it should be ensured that the views from experts from other competent authorities are taken into consideration in the relevant working group, for example through consultation of those experts at national level or by inviting them to the relevant meetings.**
- (11) BEREC should be allowed if necessary to cooperate with, and without prejudice to the role of, other Union bodies, agencies, offices and advisory groups, in particular the Radio Spectrum Policy Group¹³, the European Data Protection Board¹⁴, the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services¹⁵ and the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security¹⁶; as well as with existing committees (such as the Communications Committee and the Radio Spectrum Committee). It should also be allowed to cooperate with competent authorities of third countries, in particular, regulatory authorities competent in the field of electronic communications and/or groups of those authorities, as well as with international organisations when necessary for the performance of its tasks.

¹³ Decision 2002/622/EC establishing a Radio Spectrum Policy Group (OJ L 198, 27.7.2002, p. 49).

¹⁴ Established under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p.1).

¹⁵ Directive [...].

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 526/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 concerning the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 460/2004 (OJ L 165, 18.6.2013, p.41).

- (12) ~~Compared to the situation in the past where a~~ **A Board of Regulators and a Management Committee Board** ~~are were~~ running in parallel, ~~having a single board giving general orientations for the activities of BEREC,~~ deciding on regulatory ~~and operational~~ as well as on administrative ~~and budgetary management~~ matters **such as matters related to budget, staff, audit, etc.** ~~should help improving the efficiency, coherence and performance of the agency.~~ To this end, the **Board of Regulators and the Management Board** should carry out ~~the their~~ relevant functions and should consist, in addition of ~~two the~~ representatives of the Commission, of the Head, ~~or otherwise~~ a member of the collegiate body₂ of each NRA or **their replacements**, who are protected by dismissal requirements. **The current institutional balance should be maintained by limiting the voting rights of the Commission to matters dealt with by the Management Board.**
- (13) In the past the appointing authority powers were exercised by the Vice-Chair of the Management Committee of the BEREC Office. The Management Board **of the BEREC Office** ~~of the new agency~~ should delegate relevant appointing authority powers to the ~~Executive~~ Director, who would be authorised to sub-delegate those powers. This would contribute to an efficient management of the ~~BEREC staff of the BEREC Office as well as to ensuring that the Management Committee, as well as the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, can concentrate on their functions.~~

- (14) ~~In the past the term of office of the Chair and of the Vice Chairs of the Board of Regulators was one year. In view of the additional tasks assigned to BEREC and the need to ensure annual and multiannual programming for its activities, it is crucial to ensure that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson benefit from a stable and longer term mandate.~~
- (15) The **Board of Regulators and the** Management Board should hold at least two ordinary meetings a year. In view of past experience and the enhanced role of BEREC, the **Board of Regulators and the** Management Board may need to hold additional meetings.
- (16) Experience has shown that most of BEREC's tasks are better carried out through working groups, therefore the ~~Management~~ **Board of Regulators** should be in charge of setting up working groups and appointing their members **chairpersons**. ~~In order to ensure a balanced approach, the working groups should be coordinated and moderated by members of the BEREC staff. Lists of qualified experts should~~ **could** be prepared in advance to ensure a quick set-up of certain working groups, in particular those related to internal market procedures for draft national measures on market regulation ~~and on assignments of rights of use for radio spectrum,~~ due to the time limits of those procedures.
- (17) **Although the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson(s) of the Board of Regulators will represent BEREC according to their functions,** ~~The role of the Executive Director, who would be~~ **should remain** the legal representative of ~~BEREC~~ **the BEREC Office as regards to legal and administrative matters,** is crucial for the adequate functioning of the new agency ~~and the implementation of the tasks assigned to it.~~ The Management Board should appoint him/her ~~on the basis of a list drawn up by the Commission~~ following an open and transparent selection procedure in order to guarantee a rigorous evaluation of the candidates and a high level of independence. Moreover, in the past the term of office of the Administrative Manager of the BEREC Office was three years. It is necessary that the ~~Executive~~ Director has a sufficiently long mandate in order to ensure stability and delivery of a long-term strategy ~~for the agency.~~

- (17) ~~Experience has shown that most of BEREC's tasks are better carried out through working groups, therefore the Management Board should be in charge of setting up working groups and appointing their members. In order to ensure a balanced approach, the working groups should be coordinated and moderated by members of the BEREC staff. Lists of qualified experts should be prepared in advance to ensure a quick set up of certain working groups, in particular those related to internal market procedures for draft national measures on market regulation and on assignments of rights of use for radio spectrum, due to the time limits of those procedures.~~
- (18) ~~As BEREC is competent for taking decisions with a binding effect, it is necessary to ensure that any natural or legal person subject to, or concerned by, a decision of BEREC has the right of appeal to a Board of Appeal, which is part of the agency but independent from its administrative and regulatory structure. As the decisions issued by the Board of Appeal are intended to produce legal effects towards third parties, an action for review of their legality may be brought to the General Court. In order to ensure uniform conditions as regards the rules of procedure of the Board of Appeal, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁷.~~
- (19) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁸ should apply to **the BEREC Office**.

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

¹⁸ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 of 30 September 2013 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies referred to in Article 208 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 328, 7.12.2013, p. 42).

- (20) ~~In order to guarantee BEREC's autonomy, it~~ **The BEREC Office** should have its own budget, most of which comes essentially from a contribution from the Union. The financing of **the BEREC Office** should be subject to an agreement by the budgetary authority as set out in point 31 of the Inter-institutional Agreement on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management¹⁹. **In view of the narrow mandate assigned to the BEREC Office, it should have staff strictly limited to the number required to perform its duties.**
- (21) ~~The BEREC Office should be independent as regards operational and technical matters and~~ should enjoy legal, administrative and financial autonomy. To that end, it is necessary and appropriate that **BEREC Office** should be a body of the Union having legal personality and exercising the powers conferred upon it.
- (22) ~~As a Union decentralised agency, BEREC and the BEREC Office~~ should operate within **its** the mandate **provided for by this regulation** and the existing institutional framework. ~~It~~ **They should** cannot be seen as representing a Union position to an outside audience or as committing the Union **and its Member States** to legal obligations. **Taking this into account, BEREC should be entitled to establish working arrangements with third parties, which shall not create legal obligations. The goal of such working arrangements could be, for instance, to develop cooperative relationships and exchange views on regulatory issues. The Commission should ensure that the necessary working arrangements are consistent with EU Union policy and priorities, that BEREC, being established by a Union legal instrument and financed by the Union budget, operates within its mandate and the existing institutional framework and is not seen as representing the EU Union position to an outside audience or as committing the EU Union to international obligations.**

¹⁹ Inter-institutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management (OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1).

- (23) In order to further extend the consistent implementation of the provisions of the regulatory framework for electronic communications within ~~the its scope of BEREC, the new agency~~ **the Board of Regulators, the working groups and the Management Board of the BEREC Office** should be open to the participation of regulatory authorities of third countries competent in the field of electronic communications that have entered into agreements with the Union to that effect, in particular those of EEA EFTA States and EU candidate countries.
- (24) BEREC should be allowed to engage in communication activities within its field of competence, which should not be detrimental to BEREC's core tasks and should be carried out in accordance with relevant communication and dissemination plans adopted by the ~~Management Board~~ **Board of Regulators**. The content and implementation of BEREC's communication strategy should be coherent, relevant and coordinated with the strategies and activities of the Commission and the other institutions in order to take into consideration the broader image of the Union.
- (25) In order to carry out its tasks effectively, BEREC, **with the close administrative support provided by the BEREC Office**, should have the right to request all necessary information from the Commission, the NRAs, **other competent authorities** and, as a last resort, other authorities and undertakings. Requests for information should be **reasoned**, proportionate and not impose an undue burden on the addressees. NRAs, which are closest to the electronic communications markets, should cooperate with BEREC and have a timely and accurate provision of information to ensure that BEREC is able to fulfil its mandate. BEREC should also share with the Commission, ~~and~~ the NRAs, **and other competent authorities** the necessary information based on the principle of sincere cooperation **and, where relevant, the confidentiality of information should be ensured. When assessing if a request is duly justified, BEREC should in take into consideration if the requested information is related to the carrying out of tasks exclusively attributed to national regulatory authorities.**

- (26) Since the objectives of this regulation, namely the need to ensure a consistent implementation of the regulatory framework for electronic communications within the defined scope, in particular in relation to cross-border aspects and through efficient internal market procedures for draft national measures, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore, by reason of the scale and effects of the action, be better achieved at the level of the Union, the Union may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.
- (27) This regulation aims to amend and expand the provisions of Regulation (EC) 1211/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Since the amendments to be made are of a substantial nature, that act should, in the interests of clarity, be replaced and therefore repealed. References to the repealed regulation should be construed as references to this regulation.
- (28) The BEREC Office, which was established as a Community body with legal personality by Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009, is succeeded by **the BEREC Office established in this Regulation** as regards all ownership, agreements, legal obligations, employment contracts, financial commitments and liabilities. **The BEREC Office established in this regulation** should take over the staff of the BEREC Office whose rights and obligations should not be affected.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

CHAPTER I

OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Article 1

Establishment and objectives of BEREC

1. The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications ('BEREC') is hereby established.
2. BEREC shall act within the scope of Directive [...], ~~Directive 2002/58/EC~~, Regulation (EC) No 531/2012, **and** Regulation (EU) No 2015/2120 ~~and Decision 243/2012/EU²⁰ (Radio Spectrum Policy Programme)~~.

The definitions laid down in ~~those that~~ Directives, and **those** Regulations ~~and Decision~~ shall apply for the purposes of this regulation.

3. BEREC shall pursue the ~~same~~ objectives ~~as those of national regulatory authorities ('NRAs')~~ ~~referred to set out~~ in Article 3 of the Directive. In particular, BEREC shall ensure a consistent implementation of the regulatory framework for electronic communications within the scope referred to in paragraph 2 and thereby contribute to the development of the internal market. It shall also promote access to, and take-up of, very high capacity data connectivity; competition in the provision of electronic communications networks, services and associated facilities; and the interests of the citizens of the Union.
4. **BEREC shall carry out its tasks independently, impartially and transparently.**

²⁰ Decision No 243/2012/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012 establishing a multiannual radio spectrum policy programme (OJ L 81, 21.3.2012, p. 7).

Article 1a

Establishment and objectives of the BEREC Office

1. **The BEREC Office is hereby established. The BEREC Office shall be a body of the Union with legal personality.**
2. **The BEREC Office shall have its seat in Riga (Latvia).**
3. **The BEREC Office shall assist BEREC in pursuing the objectives set out in Article 1(3).**

Article 2

Regulatory tasks of BEREC

1. The **regulatory** tasks of BEREC shall be to:
 - (a) assist, advise and cooperate with the Commission, **the European Parliament and the Council** as well as NRAs on request or on its own initiative, on any technical matter within its mandate, **including on any proposed amendment of this regulation or of the Directive** and ~~assist and advise the European Parliament and the Council on request;~~
 - (b) ~~issue decisions:~~
 - ~~on the identification of transnational markets in accordance with Article 63 of the Directive;~~
 - ~~on a contract summary template in accordance with Article 95 of the Directive;~~
 - (c) ~~develop an economic model in order to assist the Commission in determining the maximum termination rates in the Union in accordance with Article 73 of the Directive;~~

- (d) issue opinions as referred to in the Directive and Regulation (EU) No 531/2012, in particular **on**:
- i. ~~on~~ the resolution of cross-border disputes in accordance with Article 27 of the Directive;
 - ii. ~~on~~ draft national measures related to the internal market procedures for market regulation in accordance with Articles 32, 33 and 66 of the Directive;
 - ~~iii. on draft national measures related to the internal market procedures for radio spectrum peer review in accordance with Article 35 of the Directive;~~
 - iv. ~~on~~ draft decisions and recommendations on harmonisation in accordance with Article 38 **and 87** of the Directive;
 - v. ~~on the identification of~~ **potential** transnational markets in accordance with Article 63 of the Directive;
 - vi. ~~on~~ the determination of the maximum termination rates in the Union in accordance with Article 73 of the Directive;
 - ~~vii. the market and technological developments regarding the different types of electronic communications services and their impact on the application of Title III of the Directive in accordance with article 114a of the Directive;~~

- (e) issue guidelines **on the implementation of the EU regulatory framework in particular** as referred to in the Directive, Regulation (EC) No 531/2012 and Regulation (EU) No 2015/2120 **on**:
- i. the notification template in accordance with Article 12 of the Directive;**
 - ~~ii. on the implementation of NRAs' obligations as regards geographical surveys in accordance with Article 22 of the Directive;~~
 - ~~iii. on common approaches to the identification of the network termination point,~~ **most adequate point for the imposition of access obligations** in different network topologies in accordance with Article 59 of the Directive;
 - ~~iv. on common approaches to meet transnational end-user demand in accordance with Article 64 of the Directive;~~
 - ~~v. on the minimum criteria for a reference offer in accordance with Article 67 of the Directive;~~
 - ~~vi. on the technical details of the cost model to be applied by NRAs when setting maximum symmetric termination rates in accordance with Article 73 of the Directive;~~
 - vii. the consistent application of criteria for the regulatory treatment of new network elements according to Article 74 of the Directive;**

- viii. ~~on~~ common criteria for the assessment of the ability to manage numbering resources and the risk of exhaustion of numbering resources in accordance with Article 87 of the Directive;
 - ix. ~~on~~ relevant quality of service parameters and the applicable measurement methods in accordance with Article 97 of the Directive;
 - x. ~~on~~ the implementation of NRAs' obligations as regards open internet access in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 2015/2120;
 - xi. ~~on~~ wholesale roaming access in accordance with Article 3 of Regulation (EU) No 531/2012;
- (f) **where relevant, participate in the Peer Review Forum on draft national measures on selection procedures in accordance with Article 35 of the Directive and provide support to the relevant competent authority.**

2. BEREC shall also carry out the following **regulatory** tasks:

- (a) monitor and coordinate the action of NRAs in applying Regulation (EU) No 531/2012, in particular as regards the provision of regulated retail roaming services at domestic prices in the interests of end-users;
- (b) report on technical matters within its competence, in particular:
 - i. on the practical application of the opinions and guidelines referred to in Article 2(1)(d) and 2(1)(e);

- ii. on the level of interoperability between interpersonal communications services, threat to effective access to emergency services or to end-to-end connectivity between end-users in accordance with Article 59 of the Directive;
 - iii. on the evolution of retail and wholesale charges for roaming services and on transparency and comparability of tariffs in accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 531/2012;
 - iv. on the outcomes of the annual reports that NRAs shall provide in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 2015/2120, through the publication of an annual synthesis report;
 - v. **on the developments of the electronic communications sector by means of an annual report;**
- (c) issue recommendations and best practices addressed to the NRAs in order to encourage consistent implementation on any technical matter within its mandate;
- (d) keep a register of:
- i. **a register or list of** undertakings providing electronic communications networks and services in accordance with Article 12 of the Directive. ~~BEREC shall also issue standardised declarations on notifications by undertakings in accordance with Article 14 of the Directive;~~
 - ii. **a database of the notifications transmitted to the NRAs in accordance with Article 12 of the Directive;**
 - iii. **a database of numbers with a right of extraterritorial use in accordance with Article 87 of the Directive;**

- (da) **monitor the market and technological developments regarding the different types of electronic communications services and their impact on the application of Title III of the Directive according to article 114a of the Directive, and where relevant issue an opinion;**
 - (db) **promote the modernisation, coordination and standardisation of the collection of data by NRAs. Without prejudice to intellectual property rights, personal data protection rules and the required level of confidentiality, this data should be made available to the public in an open, reusable and machine-readable format on the BEREC website and the European data portal;**
 - (e) carry out other tasks conferred on it by legal acts of the Union in particular by the Directive, Regulation (EC) No 531/2012 and Regulation (EU) No 2015/2120.
3. **BEREC shall make public all the adopted opinions, guidelines, reports, recommendations and best practices as well as any commissioned study.** Without prejudice to compliance with relevant Union law, NRAs **and the Commission** shall ~~comply with any decision and~~ take the utmost account of any opinion, guideline, recommendation and best practice adopted by BEREC with the aim of ensuring a consistent implementation of the regulatory framework for electronic communications within the scope referred to in Article 1(2).

3a. BEREC shall, where appropriate, consult interested parties and give them the opportunity to comment within a reasonable period, having regard to the complexity of the matter and in any event not shorter than 30 days. BEREC shall, without prejudice to Article 28, make the results of such public consultations publicly available. Such consultations shall take place as early as possible in the decision-making process. BEREC shall, without prejudice to Article 20, make the results of the consultation procedure publicly available.

BEREC may, where appropriate, consult the relevant national competition authorities before issuing its opinions to the Commission.

- 4. ~~In so far~~ **Insofar** as is necessary in order to achieve the objectives set out in this regulation and perform its tasks, BEREC may cooperate with competent Union bodies, agencies, offices and advisory groups, with competent authorities of third countries and/or with international organisations, in accordance ~~to~~ **with** Article 26.**
- 5. The regulatory tasks of BEREC shall not extend to the adoption of binding decisions of either a general or an individual nature.**

Article 2a

Tasks of the BEREC Office

- 1. Under the guidance of the Board of Regulators, the tasks of the BEREC Office shall be to:**
 - (a) provide professional and administrative support services to BEREC;**
 - (b) collect information from NRAs and exchange and transmit information in relation to the regulatory tasks set out in Article 2;**
 - (c) disseminate regulatory best practices among NRAs;**
 - (d) assist the Chairperson in the preparation of the work of the Board of Regulators and the Management Board;**
 - (e) assist in setting up working groups, upon request of the Board of Regulators, and provide support to ensure the smooth functioning of those groups.**

CHAPTER II

ORGANISATION

Article 3

Structure of BEREC and the BEREC Office

1. ~~The administrative and management structure of BEREC shall comprise:~~
 - ~~– a Management Board of Regulators, which shall exercise the functions set out in Article 5;~~
 - ~~– an Executive Director, which shall exercise the responsibilities set out in Article 9;~~
 - ~~– Working Groups;~~
 - ~~– a Board of Appeal.~~

2. **The BEREC Office shall comprise:**
 - a Management Board;**
 - a Director.**

SECTION 1

BOARD OF REGULATORS

Article 4

Composition of the Board of Regulators

1. The ~~Management Board~~ **Board of Regulators** shall be composed of one representative from each Member State ~~and two representatives of the Commission~~, all with voting rights. Each NRA shall be responsible for ~~nominating~~ **appointing** its respective representative amongst the Head or members of the collegiate body of the NRA **or their replacements**.

In Member States where more than one NRA is responsible under the Directive, those authorities shall agree on a common representative and the necessary coordination between the NRAs shall be ensured.

2. Each **representative of a** member of the ~~Management Board~~ **Board of Regulators** shall have an alternate. ~~the alternate who~~ shall represent the member in ~~his/her~~ **the absence of the representative** ~~and enjoy the level of protection afforded by Articles 7 and 8 of the Directive~~. Each NRA shall be responsible for ~~nominating~~ **appointing** the alternate amongst the Heads, members of the collegiate body and staff of the NRA.

3. **Representatives of** ~~M~~members of the ~~Management Board~~ **Board of Regulators** and their alternates shall be appointed in light of their knowledge in the field of electronic communications, taking into account relevant managerial, administrative and budgetary skills. All ~~parties represented in~~ **members of the Management Board of Regulators** shall make efforts to limit turnover of their representatives, in order to ensure continuity of the board's work. All ~~parties~~ **members** shall aim to achieve a balanced representation between men and women on the ~~Management Board~~ **Board of Regulators**.

4. ~~The term of office for members and their alternates shall be four years. That term shall be extendable.~~
5. **Without prejudice to the coordination foreseen in paragraph 1, the The members of the Board of Regulators shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government, institution, person or body.**
6. **The Commission shall participate, without the right to vote, in the meetings of the Board of Regulators and shall be represented at an appropriate level.**

Article 5

Functions of the Board of Regulators

1. ~~The Management Board of Regulators shall:~~
- (a0) fulfil the regulatory tasks of BEREC set out in Article 2 and therefore adopt the opinions, guidelines, reports, recommendations and best practices described in that Article;**
- (a1) adopt the annual work programme of BEREC, including the strategy for relations with competent Union bodies, agencies, offices and advisory groups, competent authorities of third countries and/or with international organisations as referred to in Article 26, before the end of each year preceding that to which the work programme relates. The Board of Regulators shall transmit the annual work programme to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission as soon as it is adopted;**
- (a2) adopt the annual report on the activities of BEREC and transmit it to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Court of Auditors annually by 15 June.**

1a. The Management Board shall exercise the following administrative functions:

- ~~(a) — give the general orientations for BEREC’s activities and adopt each year BEREC’s single programming document by a majority of two thirds of members entitled to vote, taking into account the opinion of the Commission and in accordance with Article 15;~~
- ~~(b) — adopt, by a majority of two thirds of members entitled to vote, the annual budget of BEREC and exercise other functions in respect of BEREC’s budget pursuant to Chapter III;~~
- ~~(c) — adopt and proceed with an assessment of the consolidated annual activity report on BEREC’s activities and send both the report and its assessment, by 1 July each year to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors. The consolidated annual activity report shall be made public;~~
- ~~(d) — adopt the financial rules applicable to BEREC in accordance with Article 20;~~
- ~~(e) — adopt an anti-fraud strategy, proportionate to fraud risks taking into account the costs and benefits of the measures to be implemented;~~
- ~~(f) — ensure adequate follow up to findings and recommendations stemming from the internal or external audit reports and evaluations, as well as from investigations of the European Anti-fraud Office (‘OLAF’);~~
- (g) adopt rules for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest as referred to in Article 31, ~~as well as in respect of members of the Board of Appeal;~~
- (h) adopt and regularly update the communication and dissemination plans referred to in Article 27, based on an analysis of needs;

- (i) adopt its rules of procedure;
- ~~(j) — in accordance with paragraph 2, exercise, with respect to the staff of BEREC, the powers conferred by the Staff Regulations on the Appointing Authority and by the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants on the Authority Empowered to Conclude a Contract of Employment²¹ ('the appointing authority powers');~~
- ~~(k) — adopt implementing rules for giving effect to the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants in accordance with Article 110 of the Staff Regulations;~~
- (l) **co-authorise together with the Director** the conclusion of working arrangements with competent Union bodies, agencies, offices and advisory groups; with competent authorities of third countries and/or with international organisations in accordance with Article 26;
- ~~(m) — appoint the Executive Director and where relevant extend his/her term of office or remove him/her from office in accordance with Article 22;~~
- ~~(n) — appoint an Accounting Officer, subject to the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of other servants, who shall be totally independent in the performance of his/her duties. BEREC may appoint the Commission's Accounting Officer as the Accounting Officer of BEREC;~~
- (o) — appoint the members of the Board(s) of Appeal;
- ~~(p) — take all decisions on the establishment of BEREC's internal structures and, where necessary, their modification, taking into consideration BEREC's activity needs as well as having regard to sound budgetary management;~~

²¹ Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68 of the Council of 29 February 1968 laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities and instituting special measures temporarily applicable to officials of the Commission (OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p. 1).

(q) set up working groups and appoint their chairpersons;

(r) provide guidance to the Director.

2. The Management Board shall adopt, in accordance with Article 110 of the Staff Regulations, a decision based on Article 2(1) of the Staff Regulations and on Article 6 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, delegating relevant appointing authority powers to the Executive Director and defining the conditions under which this delegation of powers can be suspended. The Executive Director shall be authorised to sub-delegate those powers.

Where exceptional circumstances so require, the Management Board may by way of a decision temporarily suspend the delegation of the appointing authority powers to the Executive Director and those sub-delegated by the latter and exercise them itself or delegate them to one of its members or to a staff member other than the Executive Director.

Article 6

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson(s) of the Board of Regulators

1. The ~~Management Board~~ **of Regulators** shall elect a Chairperson and a **at least one** Deputy Chairperson from among members with voting rights representing Member States. The Chairperson and the Deputy **Chairperson(s)** shall be elected by a majority of two thirds of the members of the ~~Management Board~~ **of Regulators** with voting rights.
2. The Deputy Chairperson(s) shall automatically replace the Chairperson if he/she is prevented from attending to his/her duties.

3. The term of office of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson(s) shall be ~~four~~ **one** years, with the exception of the first term of office of the Deputy Chairpersons elected after the entry into force of this regulation which shall be two years. Their term of office may be renewed once.
4. **The Chairperson of the Board of Regulators shall report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the performance of his/her duties when invited to do so.**

Article 7

Meetings of the Board of Regulators

1. The Chairperson shall convene the meetings of the ~~Management~~ **Board of Regulators**
- 1a. **The representative of the Commission shall take part in all the deliberations without the right to vote.**
2. The ~~Executive Director of BEREC~~ shall take part in **all** the deliberations without the right to vote.
3. The ~~Management~~ **Board of Regulators** shall hold at least two ordinary meetings a year. In addition, **the Chairperson shall convene extraordinary meetings on her/his own initiative** ~~it shall meet on the initiative of its Chairperson,~~ at the request of the Commission, or at the request of at least ~~one-third~~ **three** of its members.
4. The ~~Management~~ **Board of Regulators** may invite any person whose opinion may be of interest to attend its meetings as an observer.

5. The **representatives of the** members and the alternates of the ~~Management Board of~~ **Regulators** may, subject to its rules of procedure, be assisted at the meetings by advisers or experts.
6. BEREC **Office** shall provide the secretariat for the ~~Management Board of~~ **Regulators**.

Article 8

Voting rules of the Board of Regulators

1. ~~Without prejudice to Articles 5(1) (a) and (b) and 22(8), T~~the **Management Board of Regulators** shall take decisions by ~~majority of~~ **two-thirds of its** members with voting rights.
2. Each member with voting rights shall have one vote. In the absence of **representative of a** member with the right to vote, his/her alternate shall be entitled to exercise his/her right to vote.
3. The Chairperson shall take part in the voting **in his/her capacity as a representative of a member unless voting rights have been delegated**.
4. The ~~Executive Director~~ **and the representative from the Commission** shall not take part in the voting.
5. The ~~Management Board's~~ rules of procedure **of the Board of Regulators** shall establish more detailed voting arrangements, in particular **the urgent voting procedure and** the circumstances in which a member may act on behalf of another member.

SECTION 1A

WORKING GROUPS

Article 8a

Functioning of the working groups

1. *Where justified and in particular to implement the work programme of BEREC, the Board of Regulators, may set up the necessary working groups.*
2. *The Board of Regulators shall appoint the chairpersons of the working groups.*
- 2a. *The working groups shall be open to the participation of experts from all the NRAs, the Commission, BEREC Office staff and the NRAs of third countries participating in the work of BEREC.*

In the case of the working groups which are set up to carry out the tasks referred to in ~~the second indent~~ of Article 2(1)(d)(ii), ~~those experts members~~ shall either be qualified experts from the NRAs including of third countries, or from BEREC Office staff, ~~and the Director.~~

Working groups which are set up to carry out the tasks referred to in Article 2(1)(e)(i, ii, viii, ix), Article 2(2)(b)(i, ii), Article 2(2)(d), Article 2(2)(da) and, where relevant, Article 2(1)(d)(iv) and Article 2(2)(b)(i) of this regulation shall take into consideration the views from experts from other relevant competent authorities notified pursuant to Article 5(4) of the Directive.

The ~~Management~~ Board of Regulators or the chairpersons of the working groups may invite individual experts recognised as competent in the relevant field, to participate in the working groups meetings if necessary on a case-by-case basis.

4. *The ~~Management~~ Board of Regulators shall adopt internal rules of procedure laying down the practical arrangements for the operation of the working groups.*
5. *The BEREC Office shall provide support to the working groups.*

SECTION 1B

Management Board

Article 8b

Composition of the Management Board

1. **The Management Board shall be composed of the members of the Board of Regulators and of one representative of the Commission, all with voting rights.**
2. **The alternates of each representative of a member of the Board of Regulators shall be alternates of the representatives of the member of the Management Board. The Commission shall also have an alternate.**
3. **The members of the Management Board shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government, institution, person or body.**

Article 8c

Functions of the Management Board

1. *The Management Board shall exercise the following administrative functions:*
 - (a) *give the general orientations for BEREC Office's activities and adopt each year BEREC Office's single programming document by a majority of two-thirds of members entitled to vote, taking into account the opinion of the Commission and in accordance with Article 15;*
 - (b) *adopt, by a majority of two-thirds of members entitled to vote, the annual budget of BEREC Office and exercise other functions in respect of BEREC Office's budget pursuant to Chapter III;*
 - (c) *adopt and proceed with an assessment of the consolidated annual activity report on BEREC Office's activities and send both the report and its assessment, by 1 July each year to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors. The consolidated annual activity report shall be made public;*
 - (d) *adopt the financial rules applicable to BEREC Office in accordance with Article 20;*
 - (e) *adopt an anti-fraud strategy, proportionate to fraud risks taking into account the costs and benefits of the measures to be implemented;*
 - (f) *ensure adequate follow-up to findings and recommendations stemming from the internal or external audit reports and evaluations, as well as from investigations of the European Anti-fraud Office ('OLAF');*
 - (g) **adopt rules for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest as referred to in Article 31;**

- (h) **adopt its rules of procedure;**
 - (i) *in accordance with paragraph 2, exercise, with respect to the staff of BEREC Office, the powers conferred by the Staff Regulations on the Appointing Authority and by the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants on the Authority Empowered to Conclude a Contract of Employment²² ('the appointing authority powers');*
 - (j) *adopt implementing rules for giving effect to the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants in accordance with Article 110 of the Staff Regulations;*
 - (k) *appoint the Director and where relevant extend his/her term of office or remove him/her from office in accordance with Article 22;*
 - (l) *appoint an Accounting Officer, subject to the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of other servants, who shall be totally independent in the performance of his/her duties. BEREC Office may appoint the Commission's Accounting Officer as the Accounting Officer of BEREC Office;*
 - (m) *take all decisions on the establishment of BEREC Office's internal structures and, where necessary, their modification, taking into consideration BEREC Office's activity needs as well as having regard to sound budgetary management;*
2. *The Management Board shall adopt, in accordance with Article 110 of the Staff Regulations, a decision based on Article 2(1) of the Staff Regulations and on Article 6 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, delegating relevant appointing authority powers to the Director and defining the conditions under which this delegation of powers can be suspended. The Director shall be authorised to sub-delegate those powers.*

²² Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68 of the Council of 29 February 1968 laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities and instituting special measures temporarily applicable to officials of the Commission (OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p. 1).

Where exceptional circumstances so require, the Management Board may by way of a decision temporarily suspend the delegation of the appointing authority powers to the Director and those sub-delegated by the latter and exercise them itself or delegate them to one of its members or to a staff member other than the Director.

Article 8d

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson(s) of the Management Board

The Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson(s) of the Board of Regulators shall be the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson(s) of the Management Board. The same term of office should apply.

Article 8e

Meetings of the Management Board

- 1. The Chairperson shall convene the meetings of the Management Board.**
- 2. The Director shall take part in all the deliberations, except those related to Article 22, without the right to vote.**
- 3. The Management Board shall hold at least two ordinary meetings a year. In addition, the Chairperson shall convene extraordinary on her/his own initiative at the request of the Commission, or at the request of at least three of its members.**
- 4. The Management Board may invite any person whose opinion may be of interest to attend its meetings as an observer.**

5. **The representatives of the members and the alternates of the Management Board may, subject to its rules of procedure, be assisted at the meetings by advisers or experts.**
6. **BEREC Office shall provide the secretariat for the Management Board.**

Article 8f

Voting rules of the Management Board

1. **Without prejudice to subparagraphs (a) and (b) of Article 8c(1), Article 21a and Article 22(8), the Management Board shall take decisions by majority of members with voting rights.**
2. **Each member with voting rights shall have one vote. In the absence of representative of a member with the right to vote, his/her alternate shall be entitled to exercise his/her right to vote.**
3. **The Chairperson shall take part in the voting in his/her capacity as a representative of a member unless voting rights have been delegated.**
4. **The Director shall not take part in the voting.**
5. **The Management Board's rules of procedure shall establish more detailed voting arrangements, in particular the urgent voting procedure and the circumstances in which a member may act on behalf of another member.**

SECTION 2

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Article 9

Responsibilities of the Director

1. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall ~~manage BERC~~ **be responsible for the administrative management of BERC and shall assist in preparing the work of the Board of Regulators and the Management Board.** The ~~Executive~~ Director shall be accountable to the Management Board.
2. Without prejudice to the powers of the Commission, **the Board of Regulators** and the Management **Board**, the ~~Executive~~ Director shall be independent in the performance of his/her duties and shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government, institution, person or body.
3. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall report to the European Parliament **and to the Council** on the performance of his/her duties when invited to do so. ~~The Council may invite the Executive Director to report on the performance of his/her duties.~~
4. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall be the ~~legal~~ representative of **the BERC Office on legal and administrative matters.**
5. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall be responsible for the implementation of **the BERC Office's** tasks **within its administrative functions and following the guidance provided by the Board of Regulators and the Management Board.** In particular, the ~~Executive~~ Director shall be responsible for:

- (a) the day-to-day administration of **the BEREC Office**;
- (b) implementing **administrative** decisions adopted by the **Board of Regulators and the Management Board**;
- (c) preparing the single programming document and submitting it to the Management Board;
- (ca) **assisting the Board of Regulators in the preparation of BEREC's annual work programme**;
- (d) implementing the single programming document, **and** reporting to the Management Board on its implementation;
- (e) preparing the consolidated annual report on BEREC **Office**'s activities and presenting it to the Management Board for assessment and adoption;
- (ea) **assisting the Board of Regulators for the preparation of BEREC's annual report**;
- (f) preparing an action plan following-up conclusions of internal or external audit reports and evaluations, as well as investigations by the OLAF and reporting on progress ~~twice a year to the Commission and~~ regularly to the Management Board;
- (g) protecting the financial interests of the Union by applying preventive measures against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities, by carrying out effective checks and, if irregularities are detected, by recovering amounts wrongly paid and, where appropriate, by imposing effective, proportionate and dissuasive administrative measures, including financial penalties;
- (h) preparing an anti-fraud strategy for BEREC **Office** and presenting it to the Management Board for approval;

- (i) preparing draft financial rules applicable to BEREC **Office**;
 - (j) preparing BEREC **Office**'s draft statement of estimates of revenue and expenditure and implementing its budget;
 - (k) **co-authorise together with the Board of Regulators the conclusion of working arrangements with competent Union bodies, agencies, offices and advisory groups; with competent authorities of third countries and/or with international organisations in accordance with Article 26.**
6. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall also be responsible for deciding whether it is necessary for the purpose of carrying out BEREC **Office**'s tasks in an efficient and effective manner to locate one or more staff in one or more Member States. ~~The~~ **Such a** decision ~~to establish a local office~~ requires the prior consent of the Commission, the Management Board and the Member State(s) concerned. The decision shall specify the scope of the activities to be carried out ~~at the local office~~ in a manner that avoids unnecessary costs and duplication of administrative functions of BEREC **Office**.

SECTION 3

WORKING GROUPS

Article 10

Functioning of the working groups

1. Where justified and in particular to implement the work programme of BEREC, the Management Board, may set up the necessary working groups.

2. The Management Board shall appoint the members ~~chairpersons~~ of the working groups,

*~~2a. The working groups shall in principle be open to the participation of~~ which may be participated in by experts from **all** the NRAs, the Commission, BEREC staff and the NRAs of third countries participating in the work of BEREC.*

In the case of the working groups which are set up to carry out the tasks referred to in the third indent of Article 2(1)(d), their members shall be appointed from the lists of qualified experts provided by the NRAs, the Commission and the Executive Director.

*In the case of the working groups which are set up to carry out the tasks referred to in the second indent of Article 2(1)(d)(ii), their members shall **either** be appointed exclusively from the lists of qualified experts provided by the **from the NRAs including of third countries, or from BEREC staff,** and the Executive Director.*

~~Working groups which are set up to carry out the tasks referred to in Article 2(1)(d)(iv), Article 2(1)(e)(ii, iii, ix, x), Article 2(2)(b)(i, ii), Article 2(2)(d) and Article 2(2)(da) of this Regulation shall be open to the participation of experts from relevant competent authorities as observers.~~

~~The Management Board or the chairpersons of the working groups may invite individual experts recognised as competent in the relevant field, to participate in the working groups if necessary on a case-by-case basis.~~

~~3. The working groups shall be coordinated and moderated by a member of the staff of BEREC, who shall be designated according to the internal rules of procedure.~~

~~4. The Management Board shall adopt internal rules of procedure laying down the practical arrangements for the operation of the working groups.~~

~~5. BEREC shall provide support to the working groups.~~

SECTION 4

BOARD OF APPEAL

Article 11

Establishment and composition of the Board of Appeal

~~1. BEREC shall establish one Board of Appeal.~~

~~2. The Board of Appeal shall be composed of a Chairperson and two other members. Each member of the Board of Appeal shall have an alternate. The alternate shall represent the member in his/her absence.~~

~~3. The Management Board shall appoint the Chairperson, the other members and their alternates from a list of qualified candidates established by the Commission.~~

~~4. Where the Board of Appeal considers that the nature of the appeal so requires, it may request the Management Board to appoint two additional members and their alternates from the list referred to in paragraph 3.~~

~~5. On the proposal of BEREC, the Commission shall establish the rules of procedure of the Board of Appeal, after having consulted the Management Board and in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 36(2).~~

Article 12

Members of the Board of Appeal

~~1. The term of office of the members and alternates of the Board of Appeal shall be four years. Their term of office may be extended by the Management Board for additional four year periods acting on a proposal from the Commission.~~

~~2. The members of the Board of Appeal shall be independent and shall not perform any other duties within BEREC. In making their decisions they shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government or from any other body.~~

~~3. The members of the Board of Appeal shall not be removed from office or from the list of qualified candidates during their term of office, unless there are serious grounds for such removal and the Management Board takes a decision to that effect, acting on a proposal from the Commission.~~

Article 13

Exclusion and objection

1. ~~The members of the Board of Appeal shall not take part in any appeal proceedings if they have any personal interest in the proceedings, if they have previously been involved as representatives of one of the parties to the proceedings, or if they participated in the adoption of the decision under appeal.~~
2. ~~If, for one of the reasons listed in paragraph 1 or for any other reason, a member of a Board of Appeal considers that he/she should not take part in any appeal proceeding, he/she shall inform the Board of Appeal accordingly.~~
3. ~~Any party to the appeal proceedings may object to any member of a Board of Appeal on any of the grounds given in paragraph 1, or if the member is suspected of partiality. Any such objection shall not be admissible if, while being aware of a reason for objecting, the party to the appeal proceedings has taken a procedural step. No objection may be based on the nationality of members.~~
4. ~~The Board of Appeal shall decide as to the action to be taken in the cases specified in paragraphs 2 and 3 without the participation of the member concerned. For the purposes of taking that decision, the member concerned shall be replaced on the Board of Appeal by his/her alternate.~~

Article 14

Decisions subject to appeal

~~1. An appeal may be brought before the Board of Appeal against decisions taken by BEREC pursuant to Article 2(1)(b).~~

~~Any natural or legal person, including NRAs, may appeal against a decision referred to in this paragraph which is addressed to that person, or against a decision which, although in the form of a decision addressed to another person, is of direct and individual concern to that person.~~

~~2. An appeal brought pursuant to paragraph 1 shall not have a suspensory effect. The Board of Appeal may, however, suspend the application of the decision against which the appeal has been brought.~~

CHAPTER III

ESTABLISHMENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE BUDGET OF THE BEREC OFFICE

SECTION 1

SINGLE PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT

Article 15

Annual and multi-annual programming

1. Each year, the ~~Executive~~ Director shall draw up a draft programming document containing annual and multiannual programming ('single programming document') in line with Article 32 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 and taking into account guidelines set by the Commission²³ **for administrative matters, as well as guidance from the Management Board.**

By 31 January, the Management Board shall adopt the draft single programming document and forward it to the Commission for it to provide its opinion. The draft single programming document shall also be forwarded to the European Parliament and the Council.

The Management Board shall subsequently adopt the single programming document taking into account the opinion of the Commission. It shall forward it to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, as well as any later updated version of that document.

²³ Commission Communication on the guidelines for programming document for decentralised agencies and the template for the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for decentralised agencies (C(2014) 9641).

The single programming document shall become definitive after final adoption of the general budget and if necessary shall be adjusted accordingly.

2. The annual work programme shall comprise detailed objectives and expected results including performance indicators. It shall also contain a description of the actions to be financed and an indication of the financial and human resources allocated to each action, in accordance with the principles of activity-based budgeting and management. The annual work programme shall be coherent with the multi-annual work programme referred to in paragraph 4. It shall clearly indicate tasks that have been added, changed or deleted in comparison with the previous financial year.
3. The Management Board shall, **when necessary**, amend the adopted annual work programme when a new task is given to BEREC **or the BEREC Office**.

Any substantial amendment to the annual work programme shall be adopted by the same procedure as the initial annual work programme. The Management Board may delegate the power to make non-substantial amendments to the annual work programme to the ~~Executive~~ Director.

4. The multi-annual work programme shall set out overall strategic programming including objectives, expected results and performance indicators. It shall also set out resource programming including multi-annual budget and staff.

The resource programming shall be updated annually. The strategic programming shall be updated where appropriate, and in particular to address the outcome of the evaluation referred to in Article 38.

- ~~5. Annual and/or multiannual programming shall include the strategy for relations with competent Union bodies, agencies, offices and advisory groups; with competent authorities of third countries and/or with international organisations as referred to in Article 26, the actions linked to this strategy and the specification of associated resources.~~

Article 16

Establishment of the budget

1. Each year, the ~~Executive~~ Director shall draw up a provisional draft estimate of **the BEREC Office**'s revenue and expenditure for the following financial year, including the establishment plan, and send it to the Management Board.
2. The Management Board shall, on the basis of that provisional draft, adopt a draft estimate of **the BEREC Office**'s revenue and expenditure for the following financial year. **This draft estimate may be included in the draft single programming document referred to in Article 15.**
3. The draft estimate of **the BEREC Office**'s revenue and expenditure shall be sent by the ~~Executive~~ Director to the Commission by 31 January each year. The information contained in the draft estimate of **the BEREC Office**'s revenue and expenditure and in the draft single programming document referred to in Article 15(1) shall be coherent.
4. The Commission shall send the draft estimate to the budgetary authority together with the draft general budget of the Union.
5. On the basis of the draft estimate, the Commission shall enter in the draft general budget of the Union the estimates it considers necessary for the establishment plan and the amount of the contribution to be charged to the general budget, which it shall place before the budgetary authority in accordance with Articles 313 and 314 of the Treaty.
6. The budgetary authority shall authorise the appropriations for the contribution to **the BEREC Office**.
7. The budgetary authority shall adopt **the BEREC Office**'s establishment plan.

8. **The BEREC Office's** budget shall be adopted by the Management Board. It shall become final following final adoption of the general budget of the Union. Where necessary, it shall be adjusted accordingly.
9. For any building project likely to have significant implications for the budget of **the BEREC Office**, the provisions of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 shall apply.

SECTION 2

IMPLEMENTATION, PRESENTATION AND CONTROL OF THE BUDGET

Article 17

Structure of the budget

1. Estimates of all revenue and expenditure for **the BEREC Office** shall be prepared each financial year, corresponding to the calendar year and shall be shown in BEREC's budget.
2. BEREC **Office's** budget shall be balanced in terms of revenue and of expenditure.
3. Without prejudice to other resources, BEREC **Office's** revenue shall comprise:
 - (a) a contribution from the Union;
 - (b) any voluntary financial contribution from the Member States or the NRAs;
 - (c) charges for publications and any other service provided by **the BEREC Office**;
 - (d) any contribution from third countries or the regulatory authorities competent in the field of electronic communications of third countries participating in the work of **the BEREC Office**, as provided for by Article 26.

4. The expenditure of **the BEREC Office** shall include staff remuneration, administrative and infrastructure expenses and operational expenditure.

Article 18

Implementation of the budget

1. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall implement **the BEREC Office**'s budget.
2. Each year the ~~Executive~~ Director shall send to the budgetary authority all information relevant to the findings of evaluation procedures.

Article 19

Presentation of accounts and discharge

1. By 1 March of the following financial year, **the BEREC Office**'s accounting officer shall send the provisional accounts to the Commission's Accounting Officer and to the Court of Auditors.
2. By 31 March of the following financial year, **the BEREC Office** shall send the report on the budgetary and financial management to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors.
3. On receipt of the Court of Auditors' observations on **the BEREC Office**'s provisional accounts, BEREC's accounting officer shall draw up **the BEREC Office**'s final accounts under his/her own responsibility. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall submit the final accounts to the Management Board for an opinion.
4. The Management Board shall deliver an opinion on **the BEREC Office**'s final accounts.

5. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall, by 1 July following each financial year, send the final accounts to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors, together with the Management Board's opinion.
6. **The BEREC Office** shall publish the final accounts in the *Official Journal of the European Union* by 15 November of the following year.
7. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall send the Court of Auditors a reply to its observations by 30 September. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall also send this reply to the Management Board.
8. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall submit to the European Parliament, at the latter's request, any information required for the smooth application of the discharge procedure for the financial year in question, in accordance with Article 165(3) of Financial Regulation ²⁴.
9. On a recommendation from the Council acting by a qualified majority, the European Parliament shall, before 15 May of year N + 2, give a discharge to the ~~Executive~~ Director in respect of the implementation of the budget for year N.

Article 20

Financial rules

The financial rules applicable to **the BEREC Office** shall be adopted by the Management Board after consulting the Commission. They shall not depart from Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 unless such a departure is specifically required for **the BEREC Office's** operation and the Commission has given its prior consent.

²⁴ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012).

CHAPTER IV

STAFF OF THE BEREC OFFICE

Article 21

General provision

The Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants and the rules adopted by agreement between the institutions of the Union for giving effect to those Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants shall apply to the staff of **the BEREC Office**.

Article 21a

Number of staff

The BEREC Office shall have staff strictly limited to the number required to carry out its duties. In the context of the adoption by the Management Board of a draft estimate of the revenue and expenditure and of a draft single programming document of the BEREC Office, the number of staff shall be proposed in accordance with Articles 15(2) and 16(2). Any proposal to increase the number of staff may only be taken by unanimous decision of the Management Board.

Article 22

Appointment of ~~Executive~~ Director

1. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall be engaged as a temporary agent of **the BEREC Office** in accordance with Article 2(a) of the Conditions of Employment of Other servants.

2. The ~~Executive~~ Director shall be appointed by the Management Board, ~~from a list of candidates proposed by the Commission~~, following an open and transparent selection procedure, **on the basis of his/her knowledge in the field of electronic communications, taking into account relevant managerial, administrative and budgetary skills.**

For the purpose of concluding the contract with the ~~Executive~~ Director, **the BEREC Office** shall be represented by the Chairperson of the Management Board.

Before appointment, the candidate selected by the Management Board may be invited to make a statement before the competent committee of the European Parliament and to answer questions put by its members.

3. The term of office of the ~~Executive~~ Director shall be five years. By the end of that period, the ~~Commission~~ **Chairperson of the Management Board** shall undertake an assessment that takes into account an evaluation of the ~~Executive~~ Director's performance and **the BEREC Office's** future tasks and challenges.
4. The Management Board, acting on a proposal from the ~~Commission~~ **Chairperson of the Management Board** that takes into account the assessment referred to in paragraph 3, may extend the term of office of the ~~Executive~~ Director once, for no more than ~~five~~ **three** years.
5. The Management Board shall inform the European Parliament if it intends to extend the ~~Executive~~ Director's term of office. Within one month before any such extension, the ~~Executive~~ Director may be invited to make a statement before the competent committee of the Parliament and to answer questions put by its members.
6. An ~~Executive~~ Director whose term of office has been extended may not participate in another selection procedure for the same post at the end of the overall period.
7. The ~~Executive~~ Director may be removed from office only upon a decision of the Management Board ~~acting on a proposal from the Commission~~.

8. The Management Board shall reach decisions on appointment, extension of the term of office or removal from office of the ~~Executive~~ Director on the basis of a two-thirds majority of its members with voting rights.

Article 23

Seconded national experts and other staff

1. **The BEREC Office** may make use of seconded national experts or other staff not employed by **the BEREC Office**. The Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants shall not apply to such staff.
2. The Management Board shall adopt a decision laying down rules on the secondment of national experts to **the BEREC Office**.

CHAPTER V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 24

Legal status

1. **The BEREC Office** shall be a body of the Union. It shall have legal personality.
2. In each of the Member States **the BEREC Office** shall enjoy the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under their laws. It may, in particular, acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property and be party to legal proceedings.

3. **In legal and administrative matters, the BEREC Office** shall be represented by the ~~Executive Director~~.
4. **The BEREC Office** shall have sole responsibility for the tasks and powers assigned to it.

Article 25

Privileges and immunities

The Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union shall apply to **the BEREC Office** and its staff.

Article 26

Cooperation with Union bodies, third countries and international organisations

1. ~~In so far~~ **Insofar** as is necessary in order to achieve the objectives set out in this regulation and perform its tasks, and without prejudice to the competences of the Member States and the institutions of the Union, BEREC may cooperate with competent Union bodies, agencies, offices and advisory groups, with competent authorities of third countries and/or with international organisations.

To this end, BEREC may, subject to prior approval by the Commission, establish working arrangements. These arrangements shall not create legal obligations. ~~incumbent on the Union and its Member States.~~

2. ~~BEREC~~ **The Board of Regulators, working groups and the Management Board** shall be open to the participation of regulatory authorities of third countries competent in the field of electronic communications that have entered into agreements with the Union to that effect. **The representatives of such third countries may take part in the deliberations of the Board of Regulators and of the Management Board without the right to vote.**

Under the relevant provisions of these agreements, arrangements shall be developed specifying, in particular, the nature, extent and manner in which those regulatory authorities of the third countries concerned will participate in the work of BEREC **and of the BEREC Office**, including provisions relating to participation in the initiatives undertaken by BEREC, financial contributions and staff **to the BEREC Office**. As regards staff matters, those arrangements shall, in any event, comply with the Staff Regulations.

3. As part of the single programming document, the ~~Management Board~~ **Board of Regulators** shall adopt a strategy for relations with competent Union bodies, agencies, offices and advisory groups, with competent authorities of third countries and/or with international organisations concerning matters for which BEREC is competent. The Commission and ~~the agency~~ **BEREC** shall conclude an appropriate working arrangement aiming at ensuring that BEREC operates within its mandate and the existing institutional framework.

Article 27

Transparency, data protection and communication

1. Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁵ shall apply to documents held by BEREC **and the BEREC Office**. The Management Board shall, within six months of the date of its first meeting, adopt the detailed rules for applying Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

²⁵ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

2. The processing of personal data by BEREC **and the BEREC Office** shall be subject to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁶. The Management Board shall, within six months of the date of its first meeting, establish measures for the application of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 by BEREC **and the BEREC Office**, including those concerning the appointment of a Data Protection Officer of BEREC. Those measures shall be established after consultation of the European Data Protection Supervisor.
3. BEREC may engage in communication activities on its own initiative within its field of competence. The allocation of resources to communication activities shall not be detrimental to the effective exercise of the tasks referred to in Article 2(1) and 2(2) of this Regulation. Communication activities shall be carried out in accordance with relevant communication and dissemination plans adopted by the ~~Management Board~~ **Board of Regulators**.

Article 28

Confidentiality

1. Without prejudice to **Regulation (EC) No. 1049/2001 and** Article ~~27(1)~~ and 30, BEREC shall not disclose to third parties information that it processes or receives in relation to which a reasoned request for confidential treatment, in whole or in part, has been made.

²⁶ Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the institutions and bodies of the Community and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1).

2. Members of the **Board of Regulators and the Management Board as well as other participants in their meetings**, the ~~Executive Director, members of the Board of Appeal,~~ seconded national experts, other staff not employed by BEREC and experts participating in working groups **as well as other participants in their meetings** shall comply with the confidentiality requirements under Article 339 of the Treaty, even after their duties have ceased.

3. The **Board of Regulators and the Management Board** shall lay down the practical arrangements for implementing the confidentiality rules referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 29

Security rules on the protection of classified and sensitive non-classified information

BEREC **and the BEREC Office** shall adopt its own security rules equivalent to the Commission's security rules for protecting European Union Classified Information ('EUCI') and sensitive non-classified information, *inter alia* provisions for the exchange, processing and storage of such information as set out in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443²⁷ and 2015/444²⁸. Alternatively, BEREC **and/or the BEREC Office** may adopt a decision to apply the Commission's rules on a *mutatis mutandis* basis.

²⁷ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41).

²⁸ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

Article 30

Exchange of information

1. Upon a duly justified request from BEREC, the Commission, ~~and the NRAs~~ **and other competent authorities** shall provide BEREC with all the necessary information, in a timely and accurate manner, to carry out its tasks, provided that they have legal access to the relevant information and that the request for information is necessary in relation to the nature of the task in question.

BEREC may also request ~~the NRAs~~ **such** information to be provided at recurring intervals and in specified formats. Such requests shall, where possible, be made using common reporting formats.

2. Upon a duly justified request from the Commission, ~~or an NRA,~~ **or another competent authority**, BEREC shall provide in a timely and accurate manner any information that is necessary to enable the Commission ~~or the NRA,~~ **or the competent authority**, to carry out its tasks, based on the principle of sincere cooperation. **Where information is considered confidential by BEREC, the Commission, the national regulatory and any other competent authority concerned shall ensure such confidentiality in accordance with national and Union law including Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. Business confidentiality shall not prevent the timely sharing of information.**
3. Before requesting information in accordance with this article and in order to avoid the duplication of reporting obligations, BEREC shall take account of any relevant existing information publicly available.

4. Where information is not available or is not made available ~~by the NRAs~~ in a timely fashion or in circumstances where a direct request by BEREC would prove more efficient and less burdensome, BEREC may address a duly justified and reasoned request to other authorities or directly to the relevant undertakings providing electronic communications networks, services and associated facilities.

BEREC shall inform the relevant ~~NRA~~ **authorities, which have failed to provide the information**, of requests in accordance with this paragraph.

At the request of BEREC, the NRAs shall assist BEREC in collecting the information.

5. **BEREC Office shall provide close administrative support to BEREC in its activities under this Article.**

Article 31

Declaration of interest

1. Members of the **Board of Regulators and of the** Management Board, the ~~Executive~~ Director, seconded national experts and other staff not employed by BEREC shall each make a declaration indicating their commitment and the absence or presence of any direct or indirect interest which might be considered prejudicial to their independence.

The declarations shall be accurate and complete, made in writing and updated whenever necessary. The declarations of interests made by the members of the **Board of Regulators**, Management Board and the ~~Executive~~ Director shall be made public.

2. Members of the **Board of Regulators and of the** Management Board, the ~~Executive~~ Director, seconded national experts, other staff not employed by BEREC and experts participating in working groups shall each accurately and completely declare, at the latest at the start of each meeting, any interest which might be considered prejudicial to their independence in relation to the items on the agenda, and shall abstain from participating in the discussion of and voting upon such points.
3. The Management Board shall lay down the rules for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest and, in particular, for the practical arrangements for the provisions referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 32

Combating fraud

1. In order to facilitate combating fraud, corruption and other unlawful activities under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁹, within six months after the entry into force of this regulation, it shall accede to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 25 May 1999 concerning internal investigations by the OLAF and adopt appropriate provisions applicable to all employees of **the BEREC Office** using the template set out in the Annex to that Agreement.
2. The European Court of Auditors shall have the power of audit, on the basis of documents and on the spot, over all grant beneficiaries, contractors and subcontractors who have received Union funds from **the BEREC Office**.

²⁹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 of September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1).

3. OLAF may carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union in connection with a grant or a contract funded by **the BEREC Office**, in accordance with the provisions and procedures laid down in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 and Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96³⁰.
4. Without prejudice to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, cooperation agreements with ~~competent authorities of~~ third countries and international organisations, contracts, grant agreements and grant decisions of ~~BEREC~~ shall contain provisions expressly empowering the European Court of Auditors and OLAF to conduct such audits and investigations, according to their respective competences.

Article 33

Liability

1. **The BEREC Office's** contractual liability shall be governed by the law applicable to the contract in question.
2. The Court of Justice of the European Union shall have jurisdiction to give judgment pursuant to any arbitration clause contained in a contract concluded by **the BEREC Office**.
3. In the case of non-contractual liability, **the BEREC Office** shall, in accordance with the general principles common to the laws of the Member States, make good any damage caused by its departments or by its staff in the performance of their duties.

³⁰ Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2).

4. The Court of Justice of the European Union shall have jurisdiction in disputes over compensation for damages referred to in paragraph 3.
5. The personal liability of its staff towards **the BEREC Office** shall be governed by the provisions laid down in the Staff Regulations or Conditions of Employment applicable to them.

Article 34

Administrative inquiries

The activities of BEREC **and the BEREC Office** shall be subject to the inquiries of the European Ombudsman in accordance with Article 228 of the Treaty.

Article 35

Language arrangements

1. The provisions laid down in Regulation No 1/58³¹ shall apply to **the BEREC Office**.
2. The translation services required for the functioning of **the BEREC Office** shall be provided by the Translation Centre of the bodies of the European Union.

³¹ Council Regulation No 1 determining the languages to be used by the European Economic Community (OJ L 17, 6.10.1958, p. 385).

Article 36

Committee

1. — ~~The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee ('the Communications Committee'). That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.~~
2. — ~~Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.~~
3. — ~~Where the opinion of the committee is to be obtained by a written procedure, the procedure shall be terminated without result when, within the time limit for delivery of the opinion, the chair of the committee so decides.~~

CHAPTER VI

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 37

Headquarters Agreement and operating conditions

1. The necessary arrangements concerning the accommodation to be provided for **the BEREC Office** in the host Member State and the facilities to be made available by that Member State as well as the specific rules applicable in the host Member State to the ~~Executive~~ Director, members of the Management Board, **the BEREC Office** staff and members of their families shall be laid down in a Headquarters Agreement between **the BEREC Office** and the Member State where the seat is located, concluded after obtaining the approval of the Management Board and no later than two years after the entry into force of this regulation.
2. **The BEREC Office's** host Member State shall provide the necessary conditions to ensure the smooth and efficient functioning of **the BEREC Office**, including multilingual, European-oriented schooling and appropriate transport connections.

Article 38

Evaluation

1. No later than five years from the day of entry into force of this regulation, and every five years thereafter, the Commission shall perform an evaluation in compliance with the Commission guidelines to assess BEREC **and the BEREC Office's** performance in relation to its objectives, mandate, tasks and location(s). The evaluation shall, in particular, address the possible need to modify the mandate **and/or the structure** of BEREC **and the BEREC Office**, and the financial implications of any such modification.

2. Where the Commission considers that the continuation of BEREC **or the BEREC Office** is no longer justified with regard to its assigned objectives, mandate and tasks, it may propose that this regulation be amended accordingly or repealed.
3. The Commission shall report to the European Parliament, the Council and the Management Board on the findings of the evaluation. The findings of the evaluation shall be made public.

Article 39

Succession to the Office established by Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009

1. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, **the BEREC Office** shall succeed the Office that was established by Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009 ('BEREC Office') as regards all ownership, agreements, legal obligations, employment contracts, financial commitments and liabilities.

In particular, this regulation shall not affect the rights and obligations of the staff of the Office established under Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009. Their contracts may be renewed under this regulation in accordance with the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment and in accordance with the budgetary constraints of **the BEREC Office**.

2. With effect from [the date of entry into force of this regulation] and until the ~~Executive~~ Director takes up his/her duties following his/her appointment by the Management Board in accordance with Article 22, the Administrative Manager appointed on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009 shall ~~for the remaining period of his/her term of office~~ act as interim ~~Executive~~ Director with the functions provided for in this regulation. The other conditions of the Administrative Manager's contract shall remain unchanged.

As interim ~~Executive~~ Director, he/she shall exercise the appointing authority powers. He/she may authorise all payments covered by appropriations entered in **the BEREC Office's** budget after approval by the Management Board and may conclude contracts, including staff contracts, following the adoption of **the BEREC Office's** establishment plan.

3. The contract of employment of the Administrative Manager appointed on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009 shall be terminated at the end of his/her term of office or the day when the ~~Executive~~ Director takes up his/her duties following his/her appointment by the Management Board in accordance with Article 22, whichever is the earlier.

An Administrative Manager appointed on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009 whose term of office has been extended shall abstain from participating in the selection procedure for the ~~Executive~~ Director referred to in Article 22.

4. The Management Board referred to in Article 4 shall be composed of the members of the Management Committee referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009, until new representatives are nominated.
5. The discharge procedure in respect of the budget approved on the basis of Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009 shall be carried out in accordance with the rules established by Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009.

Article 40

Entry into force Repeal

Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009 is repealed.

References to Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009 ~~and to the BEREC Office~~ shall be construed as references to this regulation ~~and to BEREC~~.

Article 41

Entry into force

This regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from [...].

This regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President
