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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
No. Cion doc.:	6845/23
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks and repealing Directive 2014/61/EU (Gigabit Infrastructure Act) - Presidency 2nd compromise text

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 1st compromise proposal of the Spanish Presidency on GIA was discussed in the WP TELE on 11 July 2023. Delegations have provided their comments at the meeting and their written proposals afterwards.
2. Based on these contributions, the Presidency presents the Delegations its second compromise proposal in the Annex to this document. The Presidency asks the Delegations to study the compromise text and prepare their inputs to the WP meeting on 29 September 2023 when this compromise text will be discussed.
3. The most important changes in the Recitals and in the operative part of the proposal are explained in Part II of this Note.
4. Changes in the text as compared to the 1st compromise proposal are underlined, additions are marked with **bold**, deletions with ~~striketrough~~.

II. MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES

A. Recitals

5. **Rec. (4):** Recitals (4) and (7) were similar in terms of content, so (4) could be deleted.
6. **Rec. (11):** The addition aims to clarify that backbone networks and LTE/4G infrastructure, which can be upgraded to a 5G network without major civil works, are included in the scope.

The objective with the deletion was to avoid that the scope seemed to be extended to addressing transnational markets as this would undermine the national competence of the Member States.

In their contributions, Delegations aimed to make sure that they are not prevented from ‘going beyond’ the provisions of this regulation by applying more comprehensive or stricter provisions. The amended text, together with **Article 1(3) and (4)**, is the legally unambiguous terminology for this possibility.

7. **Rec (13b):** Very often, the physical infrastructure of public undertakings is owned or controlled by public sector bodies and therefore, such public undertakings should not be in the scope unless they are network operators themselves (e.g., ports, airports).
8. **Rec (17):** The addition ‘in such cases’ aims to clarify that publicly owned or controlled physical infrastructure, which does not form part of the network, should only be included if it is suitable for hosting electronic communications network elements.

The “natural’ value has been replaced by “environmental” value as this is more in line with the common terminology in EU legislation (see also **Article 7(9)**).

9. **Rec. (17a):** This recital gives more detail on what is meant by the wording “easily accessible” in the definition of “building access point” in Article 2(11).
10. **Rec. (18): National security** considerations are referred to in Recitals (18), (32) and Articles 1(5), 3(6), 4(1), 5(4), 6(2).
11. **Rec. (20)** has been aligned with the new (g) point in Article 3(3).

12. **Rec. (21):** The addition refers to Article 57 of the EEC Directive and the Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1070, when it comes to the visual impacts of network elements of very high capacity networks, in particular wireless networks.
13. **Rec. (24):** The compromise text envisages guidance at Member States level, the recital has been amended accordingly.
14. **Rec. (26):** The amendments aim to clarify the flexibility of Member States to design their single information points and that decentralized databases are allowed to fulfil the requirements imposed by this regulation.
15. **Rec. (30):** The word ‘detailed’ is deleted in order to avoid ambiguity on the extent of the cost-benefit analysis.
16. **Recitals (35) and (36):** The compromise text foresees guidance at Member State level.
17. **Rec. (35b)** explains when the obligation of the coordination of civil works may not apply, in particular to civil works that are of limited characteristics.
18. **Rec. (38)** is to clarify that the competent authorities have to keep the status of the applications updated.
19. **Rec. (39)** clarifies that the deadlines in the national law of the Member States precedes those in this regulation.
20. **Rec. (40)** has been aligned with Article 7(6).2
21. **Rec. (41):** The amended text is in conformity with the provisions in Article 7(8).
22. The wording in **Rec. (42)** further explains the process of tacit approval and include text that has already been agreed by the Institutions in Art. 16a (6) and Rec. 35 of the Renewable Energy Directive III, which is incorporated in Art. 7(7). **Rec. (42b)** refers to the protection of third parties.
23. **Rec. (44):** The wording on the performance of the network has been aligned with the corresponding digital target in the DDPP.

The part on the structural modifications has been aligned with **Article 2(9)**.

24. **Rec. (44b):** The added word aims to make a clear distinction between the obligation to deploy fibre in the building and the right of the owners to potentially deploy other, parallel, wiring or infrastructure.
25. **Rec. (49):** This recital has been aligned with Article 8(6) and differentiates Member States where a permit is required to start using the building after its completion.
26. **Rec. (63):** The addition aligns the text of the recital with the legal base of the regulation (Article 114 TFEU, approximation of laws in the internal market).
27. **Rec. (63b)** is aligned with **Article 1(5)**.

B. Articles

28. **Article 1(3):** see remarks at Recital (11)
29. The **new Article 1(5)** has been introduced by the request of the Member States. The text is aligned with the CER directive, Article 1(5) and NIS2, Art 2(6). See also **Recitals (18), (32)** and **Articles 5(4) and 6(2)**.
30. **Article 2:** The definition of „public electronic communications networks“ from the EECC has been included, with **Articles 2(1)(a)** and **9(1)** in view, as well as the definition of “access”.
31. **Article 2(2):** the definition of ‘public sector body’ has been brought forward from paragraph (4) as it is already used in paragraph (3)(b) in the definition of ‘physical infrastructure’.
32. The use of terminologies in **Paragraph (3)(a)** has been made clearer, as requested by the Member States.
33. **Article 2(12):** This new addition intends to clarify the meaning of the ‘rights of way’ as used in the EECC, for the purposes of this regulation.
34. **Article 3(1):** see remarks at Article 1(3) and Recital (11).
35. **Article 3(2):** The principle of non-discrimination is added in the text of this paragraph.

36. **Sub-paragraph (b):** The necessity to recover the costs of the provision of access has been extended also to the infrastructure companies.
37. **Sub-paragraph (c) :** the necessity of considering a fair return on their investment has been included.
38. **Paragraph (2a)** refers to infrastructure providers where the provisions in Paragraph (2) presumably exist.
39. **Paragraph (3)(f):** The addition on the ‘dark fibre’ aims to clarify that dark fibre and fibre unbundling can constitute a viable alternative as means of wholesale physical access to electronic communications networks.
40. In **Paragraph (3) (g)** a new legal base is added when access to physical infrastructure can be refused.
41. **Paragraph (6):** The amendments broaden the scope of this exemption to all types of public physical infrastructure, instead of only buildings. In addition it contemplates exceptions in case of duly justified circumstances for categories not identified beforehand. The exemptions have to be published via the single information point.
42. **Article 4(1):** last paragraph: national security has been added as a ground to limit or refuse access to the minimum information.
43. **Article 5(4):** the exception concerning critical infrastructure has been added by the request of the Member States (see also Rec. (35b)).
44. **Article 7(5) 4th Paragraph:** An exception is added from the maximum duration of the 4 months long deadline to grant or refuse the permit, based on national law that is in compliance with Union law.
45. **Article 7(6):** the automatism of granting permits/right of way should not apply to cases of expropriation which would be contrary to constitutional guarantees of ownership in most Member States.
46. The notion of ‘tacit approval’ is maintained in **Article 7(7)** but with an exception in case of not being contemplated in national legal system (see also explanation of **rec. (42)**) and a firm caveat to protect third parties’ rights.

47. **Paragraph (9):** The “natural’ value/reasons are replaced by “environmental” as this is more in line with the common terminology in EU legislation (see also **Recital (17)**).
48. **Article 8(1) and (3):** the revised wording **aims to improve the readability of the article.** See also **Articles 2(6) and 2(7) and Rec. (44) and (47)**
49. **Paragraph (6)** contains clarifications concerning the issuing of two types of permits, i.e. building permits and, in Member States where it is applicable, another permit to start using the building for its intended purpose.
50. **Paragraph (7)** clarifies that the exceptions from applying the provisions in Paragraphs (1)-(3) should be mostly certain single-dwelling (family) buildings.
51. **Article 9(3)** is aligned with the wording of Article 3.
52. **Article 12(2):** The addition requires political independence of the dispute settlement body as defined in Article 8(1) of the EECC, given that public bodies may also be parties to the disputes.
53. **Article 14:** The title is amended as questions of compensation are not any more a part of this regulation. The word ‘appropriate’ is deleted as it is not the proper terminology concerning penalties.

2023/0046 (COD)

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks and repealing Directive 2014/61/EU (Gigabit Infrastructure Act)

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 Committee¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions²,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

- (1) The digital economy has been changing the internal market profoundly over the last decade. The Union's vision is a digital economy that delivers sustainable economic and social benefits based on excellent and secure connectivity for everybody and everywhere in Europe. A high-quality digital infrastructure based on very high capacity networks underpins almost all sectors of a modern and innovative economy. It is of strategic importance to social and territorial cohesion and overall for the Union's competitiveness and digital leadership. Therefore, people as well as the private and public sectors should have the opportunity to be part of the digital economy.

¹ OJ C,, p.

² OJ C,, p.

- (2) The rapid evolution of technologies, the exponential growth in broadband traffic and the increasing demand for advanced very high-capacity connectivity have further accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the targets laid down in the Digital Agenda in 2010³ have mostly been met, but they have also become obsolete. The share of households having access to 30 Mbps internet speeds has increased from 58.1% in 2013 to 90% in 2022. Availability of only 30 Mbps is no longer future-proof and not aligned with the new objectives set in Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ for ensuring connectivity and widespread availability of very high capacity networks. Therefore, in the Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and Council⁵, the EU set updated targets for 2030 that better correspond to the expected connectivity needs of the future where all European households should be covered by a gigabit network, with all populated areas covered by 5G.
- (3) To achieve those targets, there is a need for policies to speed up and lower the costs of the deployment of very high-capacity fixed and wireless networks across the Union, including proper planning, coordination and the reduction of administrative burdens.
- (4) Directive 2014/61/EU, which was adopted in response to the need for policies to lower the costs of broadband deployment, included measures on infrastructure sharing, civil works coordination and the reduction of administrative burdens. To further facilitate the roll-out of very high capacity networks, including fibre and 5G, the European Council, called in its Conclusions on Shaping Europe's Digital Future of 9 June 2020, called for a package of additional measures to support current and emerging network deployment needs, including by reviewing Directive 2014/61/EU.
- (5) The roll-out of very high capacity networks (as defined in Directive (EU) 2018/1972) across the Union requires substantial investment, a significant proportion of which is the cost of civil engineering works. Sharing physical infrastructure would limit the need for costly civil engineering works and make advanced broadband roll-out more effective.
- (6) A major part of the costs of deploying very high capacity networks can be attributed to inefficiencies in the roll-out process related to: (i) the use of existing passive infrastructure (such as ducts, conduits, manholes, cabinets, poles, masts, antenna installations, towers and other supporting constructions); (ii) bottlenecks related to the coordination of civil works; (iii) burdensome administrative procedures to grant permits; and (iv) bottlenecks in in-building deployment of networks, which lead to high financial barriers, particularly in rural areas.

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, 19.05.2010, COM(2010)245.

⁴ Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 establishing the European Electronic Communications Code (OJ L 321, 17.12.2018, p. 36).

⁵ Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 (OJ L 323, 19.12.2022, p. 4).

- (7) Directive 2014/61/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶, which was adopted in response to the need to lower the costs of broadband deployment, included measures on infrastructure sharing, civil works coordination and the reduction of administrative burdens. To further facilitate the roll-out of very high capacity networks, including fibre and 5G, the European Council, in its Conclusions on Shaping Europe’s Digital Future of 9 June 2020, called for a package of additional measures to support current and emerging network deployment needs, including by reviewing Directive 2014/61/EU.
- (8) The measures set out in Directive 2014/61/EU contributed to less costly deployments of high-speed electronic communications networks. However, these measures should be strengthened to further reduce costs and speed up network deployment.
- (9) Measures aiming to make using public and private existing infrastructures more efficient and reduce costs and obstacles in carrying out new civil engineering works should contribute substantially to ensuring a fast and extensive deployment of very high capacity networks. These measures should maintain effective competition without harming the safety, security and smooth operation of the existing infrastructure.
- (10) Some Member States have adopted measures to reduce the costs of broadband roll-out, including by going beyond the provisions of Directive 2014/61/EU. However, those measures are still very different across Member States and have led to different results across the Union. Scaling up some of those measures across the Union and taking new reinforced measures could significantly contribute to the better functioning of the digital single market. Moreover, differences in regulatory requirements and inconsistent implementation of Union rules sometimes prevent cooperation across utility companies. The differences may also raise barriers to entry for new undertakings providing or authorised to provide public electronics communications networks or associated facilities, as defined in Directive (EU) 2018/1972 (‘operators’). These differences may also close off new business opportunities, hindering the development of an internal market for the use and deployment of physical infrastructures for very high capacity networks. Moreover, the measures notified in the national roadmaps and implementation reports adopted by Member States under Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1307⁷ neither cover all the areas of Directive 2014/61/EU nor address all issues in a consistent and complete manner. This is despite how essential it is to take action across the whole roll-out process and across sectors to achieve a coherent and significant impact.
- (11) This Regulation aims to strengthen and harmonise rights and obligations applicable across the Union to accelerate the roll-out of very high capacity networks and cross-sector coordination, **including backbone and 5G-ready-networks.** ~~Due to the persistent fragmentation of electronic communications markets in individual national markets, This~~ **will help** undertakings providing or authorised to provide electronic communications networks ~~are unable~~ to achieve economies of scale. ~~This~~ **A lack of high quality connectivity in the Union** can have a strong downstream effect on cross-border trade and

⁶ Directive 2014/61/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks (OJ L 155, 23.5.2014, p. 1).

⁷ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1307 of 18 September 2020 on a common Union toolbox for reducing the cost of deploying very high capacity networks and ensuring timely and investment-friendly access to 5G radio spectrum, to foster connectivity in support of economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in the Union (OJ L 305, 21.9.2020, p. 33).

services provision, since many services can only be provided where an adequately performing network is in place across the Union. While ensuring an improved level playing field, this Regulation does not prevent **stricter or more detailed national measures-rules** in compliance with Union law that serve to promote the joint use of existing physical infrastructure or enable a more efficient deployment of new physical infrastructure by complementing the rights and obligations laid down in this **Regulation and provide solutions to better achieve its objectives**. For example, Member States could **extend go beyond** provisions on civil works coordination **by applying them** also to privately funded projects or **requiring** that more information on physical infrastructure or planned civil works is provided to a single information point in electronic format **or applying shorter deadlines**, provided that they do not violate Union law including the provisions of this Regulation.

- (12) To ensure legal certainty, including regarding specific regulatory measures imposed under Directive (EU) 2018/1972, under Title II, Chapters II to IV and Directive 2002/77/EC⁸, the provisions of these directives should prevail over this Regulation. **This Regulation is without prejudice to the possibility for national regulatory authorities to maintain or introduce measures falling outside the scope of this Regulation, such as access obligations for in-building wiring, in accordance with the Directive (EU) 2018/1972.**
- (13) It can be significantly more efficient for operators, in particular new entrants, to reuse existing physical infrastructure, including that of other utilities, to roll out very high capacity networks or associated facilities. This is the case, in particular, in areas where no suitable electronic communications network is available or where it may not be economically feasible to build new physical infrastructure. Moreover, synergies across sectors may significantly reduce the need for civil works relating to the deployment of very high capacity networks. This reuse can also reduce the social and environmental costs linked to these works, such as pollution, noise and traffic congestion. Therefore, this Regulation should apply not only to operators but also to owners or holders of rights to use extensive and ubiquitous physical infrastructure suitable to host electronic communications network elements, such as physical networks for the provision of electricity, gas, water and sewage and drainage systems, and heating and transport services. In the case of holders of rights, this does not change any property rights of third parties.

(13b) This Regulation should not apply to public undertakings unless they meet the requirements for network operators.

- (14) To improve the deployment of very high capacity networks in the internal market, this Regulation should lay down rights for undertakings providing public electronic communications networks or associated facilities (including undertakings of a public nature) to access physical infrastructure regardless of its location under fair and reasonable terms consistent with the normal exercise of property rights. The obligation to give access to the physical infrastructure should be without prejudice to the rights of the owner of the land or of the building in which the infrastructure is located.
- (15) In particular, taking into account the fast development of providers of wireless physical infrastructure such as ‘tower companies’, and their increasingly significant role as providers of access to physical infrastructure suitable to install elements of wireless electronic

⁸ Commission Directive 2002/77/EC of 16 September 2002 on competition in the markets for electronic communications networks and services ([OJ L 249, 17.9.2002, p. 21](#)).

communications networks, such as 5G, the definition of ‘network operator’ should be extended beyond undertakings providing or authorised to provide electronic communications networks and operators of other types of networks, such as transport, gas or electricity, to include undertakings providing associated facilities, which thus become subject to all the obligations and benefits set out in the Regulation, except the provisions regarding in-building physical infrastructure and access.

- (16) In view of their low degree of differentiation, the physical facilities of a network can often host a wide range of electronic communications network elements at the same time without affecting the main service provided and with minimum adaptation costs. These elements include those capable of delivering broadband access services at speeds of at least 100 Mbps in line with the technological neutrality principle. Therefore, physical infrastructure, that is intended to only host other elements of a network without becoming an active network element itself, such as dark fibre, can in principle be used to accommodate electronic communications cables, equipment or any other element of electronic communications networks, regardless of its current use or its ownership, security concerns or future business interests of the infrastructure’s owner. The physical infrastructure of public electronic communications networks can in principle also be used to accommodate elements of other networks. Therefore, in appropriate cases, public electronic communications network operators may give access to their networks so that other networks can be deployed. Without prejudice to the pursuit of the specific general interest linked to the provision of the main service, synergies between network operators should at the same time be encouraged to contribute to achieving the digital targets set out in Decision (EU) 2022/2481.
- (17) In the absence of a justified exception, physical infrastructure elements owned or controlled by public sector bodies, even when they are not part of a network, can also host electronic communications network elements and **in such cases** should be made accessible to facilitate installing network elements of very high capacity networks, in particular wireless networks. Examples of physical infrastructure elements are buildings, **including their rooftops and part of their facades**, entries to buildings, and any other asset, including street furniture, such as light poles, street signs, traffic lights, billboards, **toll frames**, bus and tramway stops and metro **and railway** stations. It is for Member States to identify specific buildings owned or controlled by public sector bodies in their territories where access obligations cannot apply, for example, for reasons of architectural, historical, religious or ~~natural~~ **enviromental** value.
- (17a) The access point to the building should be easily accessible, that is, accessible without excessive effort, especially in cases when it is located inside the building, without creating or facilitating a monopoly in the building.**
- (18) This Regulation should be without prejudice to any specific safeguard needed to ensure **national security**, safety and public health, the security and integrity of the networks, in particular critical infrastructure, as defined by national law, and to ensure that the main service provided by the network operator is not affected, in particular in networks used for the provision of water intended for human consumption. However, general rules in national legislation prohibiting network operators from negotiating access to physical infrastructures by undertakings providing or authorised to provide electronic communications networks or associated facilities could prevent creating a market for access to physical infrastructure. Such general rules should therefore be abolished. At the same time, the measures set out in this Regulation should not prevent Member States from incentivising utility operators to give access to infrastructure by excluding revenue generated from the access to their

physical infrastructure when calculating end-user tariffs for their main activity or activities, in accordance with applicable Union law.

- (19) In order to ensure legal certainty and avoid disproportionate burdens on network operators resulting from the simultaneous application of two distinct access regimes to the same physical infrastructure, physical infrastructure subject to access obligations imposed by national regulatory authorities pursuant to Directive (EU) 2018/1972 or access obligations resulting from the application of Union State aid rules should not be subject to access obligations set out in this Regulation for as long as such access obligations remain in place. However, this Regulation should be applicable where a national regulatory authority has imposed an access obligation under Directive (EU) 2018/1972 that limits the use that can be made of the physical infrastructure concerned. For instance, this could occur when an operator planning to connect base stations requests access to existing physical infrastructure to which access obligations are imposed in the market for access to wholesale dedicated capacity⁹.
- (20) To ensure proportionality and preserve investment incentives, a network operator or public sector body should have the right to refuse access to specific physical infrastructure for objective and justified reasons. In particular, a physical infrastructure for which access has been requested could be technically unsuitable due to specific circumstances, or because of lack of currently available space or future needs for space that are sufficiently demonstrated, for instance, in publicly available investment plans. ~~To ensure proportionality and preserve investment incentives, a network operator or public sector body may refuse access to specific physical infrastructure.~~ To avoid any potential distortion of competition or any possible abuse of the conditions to refuse access, any such refusal should be duly justified and based on objective and detailed reasons. For example such reasons would not be considered objective where an undertaking providing or authorised to provide electronic communications networks has deployed physical infrastructure thanks to civil works coordination with a network operator other than an electronic communications network operator and refuses to grant access based on an alleged lack of availability of space to host the elements of very high capacity networks which results from decisions made by the undertaking under its control. In such case, a competition distortion could arise if there is no other VHCN in the area concerned by the access request. Similarly, in specific circumstances, sharing the infrastructure could jeopardise safety or public health, network integrity and security, including that of critical infrastructure, or could endanger the provision of services that are primarily provided over the same infrastructure. Moreover, where the network operator already provides a viable alternative means of wholesale physical access to electronic communications networks that would meet the needs of the access seeker, such as dark fibre or fibre unbundling, access to the underlying physical infrastructure could have an adverse economic impact on its business model, in particular that of wholesale-only operators, and incentives to invest. It may also risk an inefficient duplication of ~~network elements~~ **physical infrastructure**. The assessment of the fair and reasonable character of the terms and conditions for such alternative means of wholesale physical access should take into account, *inter alia*, the underlying business model of the undertaking providing or authorised to provide public electronic communications networks

⁹ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/2245 of 18 December 2020 on relevant product and service markets within the electronic communications sector susceptible to ex ante regulation in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Electronic Communications Code, 18.12.2020, C(2020) 8750, OJ L 439, 29.12.2020, p. 23.

granting access and the need to avoid any reinforcement of the significant market power, if any, of either party. **To preserve investment incentives and avoid the consolidation of entrenched positions of market dominance, Member States could provide that when an undertaking providing or authorised to provide electronic communications networks, which has been designated with significant market power by a national regulatory authority, seeks access to the only fibre network present in its target coverage area, the access provider could refuse access to its physical infrastructure if it provides, at fair and reasonable terms and conditions, a viable alternative means of wholesale active access which is suitable for the provision of very high capacity networks.**

- (21) To facilitate the reuse of existing physical infrastructure, where operators request access in a specified area, network operators and public sector bodies that own or control physical infrastructure should make an offer for the shared use of their facilities under fair and reasonable terms and conditions, including price, unless access is refused for objective and justified reasons. Public sector bodies should also be required to offer access under non-discriminatory terms and conditions. Depending on the circumstances, several factors could influence the conditions under which such access is granted. These include: (i) any additional maintenance and adaptation costs; (ii) any preventive safeguards to be adopted to limit adverse effects on network safety, security and integrity; (iii) any specific liability arrangements in the event of damages; (iv) the use of any public subsidy granted for the construction of the infrastructure, including specific terms and conditions attached to the subsidy or provided under national law in compliance with Union law; (v) the ability to deliver or provide infrastructure capacity to meet public service obligations; and (vi) any constraints stemming from national provisions aiming to protect the environment, **including minimising the visual impact on public infrastructure to ensure public acceptance and sustainable deployment**, public health, public security or to meet town and country planning objectives.
- (22) Investments in physical infrastructure of public electronic communications networks or associated facilities should directly contribute to the objectives set out in Decision (EU) 2022/2481 and avoid opportunistic behaviour. Therefore, any obligation of access to existing physical infrastructure or coordination of civil works should fully take into account a number of factors such as (i) the economic viability of those investments based on their risk profile; (ii) any time schedule for the return on investment; (iii) any impact that the access has on downstream competition and consequently on prices and return on investment; (iv) any depreciation of the network assets at the time of the access request; (v) any business case underpinning the investment, in particular in the physical infrastructure used for providing very high capacity network services; and (vi) any possibility previously offered to the access seeker to co-deploy.
- (23) Public sector bodies that own or control physical infrastructure may lack sufficient resources, experience or the necessary technical knowledge to engage in negotiations with operators on access. To facilitate access to these public sector bodies' physical infrastructure, a body could be appointed to coordinate the access requests, provide legal and technical advice for negotiating access terms and conditions, and make relevant information on such physical infrastructure available via a single information point. The coordinating body could also support public sector bodies in preparing model contracts and monitor the outcome and the length of time of the access requests process. The body could also help if disputes arise on access to physical infrastructure that public sector bodies own or control.

- (24) ~~To ensure consistency of approaches among Member States, the Commission, in close cooperation with the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), could~~ **may** provide guidance on applying the provisions on access to physical infrastructure, including but not only on the application of fair and reasonable conditions. The views of stakeholders and national dispute settlement bodies should be duly taken into account in the preparation of the guidance.
- (25) Operators should have access to minimum information on physical infrastructure and planned civil works in the area of deployment. This will enable them to effectively plan deploying very high capacity networks and ensure the most effective use of existing physical infrastructure, suitable for rolling out such networks, and planned civil works. Such minimum information is a pre-requisite to assess the potential for using existing physical infrastructure or coordinating the planned civil works in a specific area, as well as to reduce damage to any existing physical infrastructures. In view of the number of stakeholders involved (covering publicly and privately financed civil works as well as existing or planned physical infrastructure) and to facilitate access to that information (across sectors and borders), the network operators and public sector bodies subject to transparency obligations should proactively (rather than upon request) provide and maintain such **up-to-date** minimum information via a single information point. This will simplify managing requests to access such information and enable operators to express their interest in accessing physical infrastructure or coordinating civil works, for which timing is critical. The minimum information on planned civil works should be provided via a single information point as soon as the information is available to the network operator concerned and, in any event and where permits are required, no later than 3 months before the permit application is first submitted to the competent authorities.
- (26) The minimum information should be made available promptly via the single information point under proportionate, non-discriminatory and transparent terms so that operators can submit their requests for information. The single information point ~~should~~ **could** consist of a repository of information in electronic format, where information can be accessed **or made available** and requests can be made online using digital tools, such as webpages, digital applications, and digital platforms. The information made available may be limited to ensure network security and integrity, in particular that of critical infrastructure, national security, or to safeguard legitimate operating and business secrets. The single information point does not have to host the information as long as it ensures that ~~links are available~~ **it connects** to other digital tools, such as web portals, digital platforms, **databases**, or digital applications, where the information is stored. The single information point may provide additional functionalities, such as access to additional information or support to the process of requests for access to existing physical infrastructure or to coordinate civil works.
- (27) In addition, if the request is reasonable, in particular if needed to share existing physical infrastructures or coordinate civil works, operators should be granted the possibility to make on-site surveys and request information on planned civil works under transparent, proportionate and non-discriminatory conditions and without prejudice to the safeguards adopted to ensure network security and integrity, protection of confidentiality, as well as operating and business secrets.
- (28) Advanced transparency of planned civil works via single information points should be incentivised. This can be done by easily redirecting operators to such information whenever available. Transparency should also be enforced by making permit-granting applications

subject to prior publication of information on planned civil works via a single information point.

- (29) The discretion that Member States retain to allocate the functions of the single information points to more than one competent body should not affect their ability to effectively fulfil those functions. Where more than one single information point is set up in a Member State, a single national digital entry point consisting of a common user interface should ensure seamless access to all single information points by electronic means. The single information point should be fully digitised and provide easy access to the relevant digital tools. This will enable network operators and public sector bodies exercise their rights and comply with the obligations set out in this Regulation. This includes fast access to the minimum information on existing physical infrastructure and planned civil works, electronic administrative procedures for granting permits and rights of way, and the applicable conditions and procedures. As part of this minimum information, the single information point should give access to georeferenced information on the location of existing physical infrastructure and planned civil works. To facilitate this, Member States should provide automated digital tools for the submission of the georeferenced information and conversion tools to the supported data formats. These could be made available to network operators and public sector bodies responsible for providing this information via the single information point. Furthermore, where georeferenced location data are available via other digital tools, such as the INSPIRE Geoportal under Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁰, the single information point could provide user-friendly access to this information.
- (30) To ensure proportionality and security, the requirement to provide information on existing physical infrastructure via the single information point need not apply for the same reasons as those justifying a refusal of an access request. In addition, providing information on existing physical infrastructure via the single information point could, in very specific cases, be burdensome or disproportionate for network operators and public sector bodies. This could arise, for example, where the mapping of relevant assets is not yet available and it would be very costly to map or where access requests are expected to be very low in certain areas of a Member State or in respect to certain specific physical infrastructure. Where it appears that providing information is disproportionate based on a ~~detailed~~ cost-benefit analysis, network operators and public sector bodies should not be obliged to provide such information. Member States should conduct such ~~detailed~~ cost-benefit analysis based on a consultation with stakeholders on demand for access to existing physical infrastructure, and the analysis should be updated regularly. The consultation process and its outcome should be made public **via a single information point.** ~~and the specific physical infrastructure to be exempted from this obligation should be notified to the Commission.~~
- (31) To ensure consistency, the competent bodies performing the functions of the single information point, the national regulatory authorities fulfilling their tasks under Directive (EU) 2018/1972 or other competent authorities, such as national, regional or local authorities in charge of cadastre or the implementation of Directive 2007/2/EC (INSPIRE), as appropriate, should consult and cooperate with each other. The purpose of such cooperation should be to minimise the efforts in complying with transparency obligations on network operators and public sector bodies, including the undertakings designated with significant market power ('SMP' operators), to make information available about their

¹⁰ Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) (OJ L 108, 25.4.2007, p. 1).

physical infrastructure; Where a different data set on physical infrastructure of the SMP operator is required such cooperation should result in establishing useful interlinks and synergies between the SMP-related database and the single information point and proportionate common practices of data collection and data provision to deliver results that are easily comparable. Cooperation should also aim at facilitating access to information on physical infrastructure, in light of national circumstances. If regulatory obligations are modified or withdrawn, the parties affected should be able to agree on the best solutions to adapt the collection and provision of physical infrastructure data to the newly applicable regulatory requirements.

- (32) The transparency obligation for the coordination of civil works ~~need do~~ not apply to civil works for reasons of national security or in an emergency. This could be the case, for civil works performed if there is a risk of public danger as a result of degradation processes to civil engineering works and their associated installations, which are caused by destructive natural or human factors and are needed to ensure their safety or their demolition. For reasons of transparency, Member States should notify the types of civil works falling under those circumstances ~~to the Commission and publish them~~ via a single information point.
- (33) To ensure significant savings and minimise inconveniences to the area affected by the deployment of new electronic communications networks, regulatory constraints preventing as a general rule the negotiation among network operators of agreements to coordinate civil works to deploy very high capacity networks should be prohibited. If civil works are not financed by public means, this Regulation should be without prejudice to the possibility for network operators to conclude civil works coordination agreements according to their own investment and business plans and their preferred timing.
- (34) Member States should maximise the results of civil works fully or partially financed by public means, by exploiting the positive externalities of those works across sectors and ensuring equal opportunities to share the available and planned physical infrastructure to deploy very high capacity networks. The main purpose of civil works financed by public means should not be adversely affected. However, timely and reasonable requests to coordinate the deployment of elements of very high capacity networks should be met by the network operator carrying out the civil works concerned directly or indirectly (for example, through a sub-contractor) under proportionate, non-discriminatory and transparent terms. For example, the requesting operator should cover any additional costs, including those caused by delays and keep changes to the original plans to a minimum. Such provisions should not affect the right of Member States to reserve capacity for electronic communications networks even in the absence of specific requests. This will enable Member States to meet future demand for physical infrastructures to maximise the value of civil works or to adopt measures giving similar rights to operators of other types of networks, such as transport, gas or electricity, to coordinate civil works.
- (35) In some cases, in particular for deployments in rural, remote or scarcely populated areas, the obligation to coordinate civil works might put at risk the financial viability of such deployments and eventually disincentivize investments carried out under market terms. Therefore, a request to an undertaking providing or authorised to provide public electronic communications networks to coordinate civil works might be considered unreasonable under specific circumstances. This should be the case, in particular, if the requesting undertaking providing or authorised to provide electronic communications networks did not state its intention to deploy very high capacity networks in that area (either as a new deployment, an upgrade or an extension of a network) and there had been a forecast or invitation to declare

an intention to deploy very high capacity networks in designated areas (pursuant to Article 22 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972) or a public consultation under Union State aid rules. If more than one of those forecasts, invitations and/or public consultations have occurred, only the lack of an expression of interest at the most recent occasion covering the period during which the request for coordination of civil works is made should be considered. To ensure the possibility to access the deployed infrastructure in the future, the undertaking providing or authorised to provide public electronic communications networks performing the civil works should guarantee that it will deploy physical infrastructure with sufficient capacity, taking into account the guidance provided by the ~~Commission~~ **Member States**. This is without prejudice to the rules and conditions attached to the assignment of public funds and the application of State aid rules.

(35b) Member States may decide not to apply the provisions of this regulation on the coordination of civil works, including transparency, to civil works that are limited in scope, for example for civil works lasting less than 48 hours, using microtrenching or of an emergency character due to the risk of a public danger as a result of degradation processes to civil engineering and their associated installations, which are caused by natural or man-made destructive factors, and that are needed in order to ensure their safety or their obliteration.

(36) ~~To ensure consistency of approaches, the Commission, in close cooperation with the Body of European Regulators (BEREC), could~~ **Member States may** provide guidance on applying the provisions on civil work coordination, including but not only on apportioning of costs. The views of stakeholders and national dispute settlement bodies should be duly taken into account in the preparation of the guidance.

(37) Effective coordination can help reduce costs and delays as well as deployment disruption, which can be caused by problems on site. One example where coordination of civil works can provide clear benefits are cross-sector projects **within TEN-T networks, such as** to deploy 5G corridors along transport paths, such as road, rail and in-land waterways. These projects can often also require design coordination or co-design based on early cooperation between the project participants. As part of the co-design, the parties concerned may agree in advance on physical infrastructure deployment paths and the technology and equipment to be used, before the coordination of civil works. Therefore, the request for coordination of civil works should be filed as soon as possible.

(38) A number of different permits for deploying elements of electronic communications networks or associated facilities may be necessary in order to protect national and Union general interests. These can include digging, building, town planning, environmental and other permits as well as rights of way. The number of permits and rights of way required for deploying different types of electronic communications networks or associated facilities and the local character of the deployment could involve applying different procedures and conditions, which can cause difficulties in the network deployment. Therefore, to facilitate deployment, all rules on the conditions and procedures applicable to granting permits and rights of way should be streamlined and consistent at national level. While preserving the right of each competent authority to be involved and maintain its decision-making prerogatives in accordance with the subsidiarity principle, all information on the procedures and general conditions applicable to granting permits for civil works and rights of way should be available via single information points. This could reduce complexity and increase efficiency and transparency for all operators and particularly new entrants and smaller operators not active in that area. Moreover, operators should have the right to submit their

requests for permits and rights of way in electronic format via a single information point. **Each competent authority should keep up to date the status of the permit applications which it is competent to handle, including whether the permit have been granted or refused, and ensure that such information is accessible to the applicant via a SIP. These undertakings should also be able to retrieve information in electronic format about the status of their requests and whether they have been granted or refused.**

- (39) Permit-granting procedures should not be barriers to investment or harm the internal market. Member States should therefore ensure that a decision on whether or not to grant permits on the deployment of elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities is made available within 4 months from the receipt of a complete permit request. ~~This is without prejudice to other specific deadlines or obligations laid down for the proper conduct of the procedure, which are applicable to the permit granting procedure in accordance with national or Union~~ **or national law providing other specific deadlines or obligations for the proper conduct of the procedure that are applicable to the permit-granting procedure shall prevail over the deadline set out under this regulation, such as a public consultation required in an administrative procedure to grant an environmental permit or appeal proceedings.** Competent authorities should not restrict, hinder or make the deployment of very high capacity networks or associated facilities economically less attractive. Specifically, they should not prevent procedures for granting permits and rights of way from proceeding in parallel, where possible, or require operators to obtain one type of authorisation before they can apply for other types of authorisations. Competent authorities should justify any refusal to grant permits or rights of way under their competence, based on objective, transparent, non-discriminatory and proportionate conditions.
- (40) To avoid undue delays, competent authorities must determine the completeness of the permit request within ~~15~~ **30 working** days from its receipt. The permit request should be deemed complete unless the competent authority invites the applicant to provide any missing information within that period. For reasons of equal treatment and transparency, the competent authorities should not consider permit requests for civil works to be admissible if the minimum information required under this Regulation has not been made available via a single information point within 3 months before the first permit request is submitted to the competent authorities. Where, in addition to permits, rights of way are required for deploying elements of very high capacity networks, competent authorities should, by way of derogation from Article 43 of Directive (EU) 2018/1017, grant such rights of way within 4 months from the receipt of the request, **except in cases of expropriation**. Other rights of way not needed in conjunction with permits for civil works should continue to be granted within 6 months in accordance with Article 43 of Directive (EU) 2018/1017. Operators that suffer damage due to the delay of a competent authority to grant permits or rights of way within the applicable deadlines should have the right to compensation.
- (41) ~~In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of Article 7 of this Regulation, 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 Council¹¹. The exemptions from the requirement for permits set out at Union level by way of an implementing act, could be applied to different Member States should, in~~

¹¹ 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).

accordance with national law, specify categories of infrastructure (such as masts, antennae, poles and underground cables) ~~under certain specified conditions, for which~~ **that shall not be subject to** building permits, digging permits or other types of permits ~~may be initially required.~~ **Such could also be the case for** ~~They could also be applied to~~ technical upgrades of existing maintenance works or installations, **and** small-scale civil works, such as trenching, and renewals of permits.

- (42) In order to ensure that the procedures for granting such permits and rights of way are completed within reasonable deadlines, as appears from certain modernising and good administrative practices at national level, it is necessary to draw up principles for administrative simplification. This should include *inter alia* limiting the obligation of prior authorisation to cases in which it is essential and introducing tacit approval by the competent authorities after a certain period of time has elapsed. **To this extent, in case of lack or a response from the competent authority on the deadline, applicants may reiterate their application within 15 working days, and in case no response is received within a new deadline the permit shall be deemed as granted, unless where the principle of tacit administrative approval does not exist in the national legal system of the Member State. This should apply provided that there is a due agreement for the use of land of infrastructure on which the deployment is intended to take place and that it does not adversely affect the rights of third parties.**
- (42b) To ensure that the rights of third parties are protected, a permit application could include a proof that the land or physical infrastructure owner has granted its agreement to the deployment, including in case of more complex deployments where the agreement of several private and public landowners is required.** Moreover, the categories of deployments exempted from permits under Union law should no longer be subject to permits under national law.
- (43) To facilitate the deployment of elements of very high capacity networks, any fee related to a permit, other than rights of way, should be limited to the administrative costs related to processing the permit request according to the principles established in Article 16 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972. In the case of rights of way, the provisions established in Articles 42 and 43 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972 apply.

- (44) Achieving the targets set out in Decision (EU) 2022/2481 requires that, by 2030, all end users at fixed locations are covered by a gigabit network up to ~~a~~ **the** network termination point and all populated areas are covered by next-generation wireless high-speed networks ~~with at least 5G-equivalent~~ performance **at least equivalent to that of 5G**, in accordance with the principle of technological neutrality. Providing gigabit networks up to the end user should be facilitated **by a modern and future proof fibre-based technology suitable**, in particular ~~through fibre ready~~ **to a modern and future proof** in-building physical infrastructure, **building access point and inbuilding wiring**. Providing for mini-ducts during the construction of a building has only a limited incremental cost, while equipping buildings with gigabit infrastructure may represent a significant part of the cost of deploying a gigabit network. Therefore, all new buildings or buildings subject to a major renovation **encompassing structural modifications of the entire in-building physical infrastructure or a significant part thereof**, should be equipped with physical infrastructure and in-building fibre wiring, enabling the connection of end users to gigabit speeds. New multi-dwelling buildings and multi-dwelling buildings subject to major renovation **encompassing structural modifications of the entire in-building physical infrastructure or a significant part thereof** should also be equipped with ~~an~~ **building** access point, **easily** accessible to one or more undertakings providing or authorised to provide public electronic communications networks. Moreover, building developers should provide for empty ducts from every dwelling to the **building** access point, located **inside** or outside the multi-dwelling building, **allowing connections up to the network termination points, or, in those Member State where the network termination point is not situated at the end user's particular location, up to the physical point where the end user connects to access the public network**. Major renovations of existing buildings at the end user's location to enhance energy performance (pursuant to Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council¹²) provide ~~an~~ **modernisation** opportunity to also equip those buildings with fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure, in-building fibre wiring and, for multi-dwelling buildings, ~~an~~ **building** access point.
- (44b) The provisions regarding **fiber-ready in-building physical infrastructure, fiber-ready building access point and wiring shall should** not affect the right of building owners to **additionally** equip the building with in-building wiring **other than in addition to fibre, or with other elements of electronic communication networks and with additional in-building physical infrastructure capable of hosting wiring other in addition than to fibre or other elements of electronic communication networks**.
- (45) The prospect of equipping a building with fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure, ~~an~~ **fiber-ready building** access point or in-building fibre wiring may be considered disproportionate in terms of costs, namely for new single dwellings or buildings undergoing major renovation works. This may be based on objective grounds, such as tailor-made cost estimates, economic reasons linked to the location, or urban heritage conservation or environmental reasons (for example, for specific categories of monuments).
- (46) Prospective buyers and tenants **would benefit from** ~~should be able to~~ identifying buildings that are equipped with fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure, a **fiber-ready**

¹² Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings (OJ L 153, 18.6.2010, p. 13).

building access point and in-building fibre wiring and that therefore have considerable cost-saving potential. The fibre readiness of buildings should also be promoted. Member States ~~should~~ **may** therefore develop a ~~compulsory~~ 'fibre-ready' label for buildings equipped with such infrastructure, ~~an~~ **fiber-ready building** access point and in-building fibre wiring in accordance with this Regulation.

- (47) Undertakings providing or authorised to provide public electronic communications networks deploying gigabit networks in a specific area could achieve significant economies of scale if they could terminate their network to the building's access point by using existing physical infrastructure and restoring the affected area. This should be possible irrespective of whether a subscriber has expressed explicit interest for the service at that moment in time and provided that the impact on private property is minimised. Once the network is terminated at the **building** access point, the connection of an additional customer is possible at a significantly lower cost, in particular by means of **connections up to the network termination points, or, where explicitly permitted by the Member State when the network termination point is not situated at the end user's particular location, up to the physical point where the end user connects to access the public network, in particular via an** access to a fibre-ready vertical segment inside the building, where it already exists. That objective is also fulfilled when the building itself is already equipped with a gigabit network to which access is provided to any public communications network provider, which has an active subscriber in the building, under transparent, proportionate and non-discriminatory terms and conditions. That could in particular be the case in Member States that have taken measures under Article 44 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972.
- (48) In order to contribute to ensuring availability of gigabit networks to end users, new buildings and majorly renovated buildings should be equipped with fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure, in-building fibre wiring and, in the case of multi-dwelling buildings, ~~an~~ **building** access point. Member States should have a degree of flexibility to achieve this. This Regulation, therefore, does not seek to harmonise rules on related costs, including the recovery of costs of equipping buildings with fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure, in-building fibre wiring and ~~an~~ **building** access point.
- (49) In line with the subsidiarity principle and to take national circumstances into account, Member States should adopt the standards or technical specifications necessary for the purpose of equipping newly constructed or majorly renovated buildings with fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure and in-building fibre wiring; and new or majorly renovated multi-dwelling buildings with an access point. Those standards or technical specifications ~~should~~ **may** set out at least: the building access point specifications; fibre interface specifications; cable specifications; socket specifications; specifications for pipes or microducts; technical specifications needed to prevent interference with electrical cabling, and the minimum bend radius. Member States should make the issuance of building permits conditional on compliance of the relevant new building or major renovation works project requiring a building permit with the standards or technical specifications based on a certified test report **or a similar procedure set up by Member States. In addition to the building permit, which are granted by the competent authorities after verification that the construction technical project complies with the relevant regulations, in some Member States a permit to use the building for its intended purpose after completion of its construction is also required.** Member States ~~should~~ **may** also set up certification schemes for the purpose of demonstrating compliance with the standards or technical specifications as well as for qualifying for the 'fibre-ready' label. Moreover, to avoid an increase in red tape related to the certification scheme set up under this Regulation, Member States ~~should~~

could take into account the procedural requirements applied to certification schemes pursuant to Directive 2010/31/EU and also consider the possibility to enable the combined launch of both request procedures.

- (50) In view of the social benefits stemming from digital inclusion and taking into account the economics of deploying very high capacity networks, where there is neither existing passive or active fibre-ready infrastructure serving end users' premises nor alternatives to providing very high capacity networks to a subscriber, any **provider of public communications networks** ~~provider~~ should have the right to terminate its network to a private premise at its own cost, provided that the impact on private property is minimised, for example, if possible, by reusing the existing physical infrastructure available in the building or ensuring full restoration of the affected areas.
- (51) Requests for access to the in-building physical infrastructure should fall under the scope of this Regulation, whereas a request for access to fibre wiring is to fall under the scope of Directive (EU) 2018/1972. Moreover, access to in-building physical infrastructure could be refused if access to in-building fibre wiring is made available under fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions, including price.
- (52) ~~To ensure consistency of approaches, the Commission, in close cooperation with BEREC,~~ **could Member states may** provide guidance on the applications of provisions on access to in-building physical infrastructure, including but not only on the terms and conditions thereof. The views of stakeholders and national dispute settlement bodies should be duly taken into account in the preparation of the guidance.
- (53) To foster the modernisation and agility of administrative procedures and reduce the cost of and time spent on the procedures for deploying very high capacity networks, the services of single information points should be performed fully online. To that end, single information points should provide easy access to the necessary digital tools, such as web portals, **databases**, digital platforms, and digital applications. The tools should give access in an efficient manner to the minimum information on existing physical infrastructure and planned civil works and the possibility to request information. Such digital tools should also give access to the electronic administrative procedures for granting permits and rights of way and related information on the applicable conditions and procedures. Where more than one single information point is set up in a Member State, all single information points should be easily and seamlessly accessible, by electronic means, via a single national digital entry point. This entry point should have a common user interface ensuring access to the online single information points. The single national digital entry point should facilitate interaction between operators and competent authorities performing the functions of the single information points.
- (54) Member States should be allowed to rely on, and where necessary improve, digital tools, such as web portals, **databases**, digital platforms, and digital applications that might already be available at local, regional or national level to provide the functions of the single information point provided they comply with the obligations set out in this Regulation. This includes access through a single national digital entry point and the availability of all the functionalities set out in this Regulation. To comply with the 'once-only' data minimisation and accuracy principles, Member States should be allowed to integrate more digital platforms, **databases**, or applications supporting the single information points, as appropriate. For example, the digital platforms, **databases** or applications supporting the

single information points on existing physical infrastructure could be interconnected or fully or partially integrated with the ones for planned civil works and granting permits.

- (55) To ensure the effectiveness of the single information points provided for under this Regulation, Member States should ensure adequate resources as well as readily available relevant information on a specific geographical area. The information should be presented with the right level of detail to maximise efficiency in view of the tasks assigned, including at the local cadastre. In that regard, Member States could consider the possible synergies and economies of scale with the points of single contact within the meaning of Article 6 of Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹³ and other planned or existing e-government solutions with a view to building on existing structures and maximising the benefits for users. Similarly, the Single Digital Gateway provided for in Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁴ should link to the single information points.
- (56) The costs for setting-up the single national digital entry point, the single information points and the digital tools needed to comply with the provisions of this Regulation could be fully or partly eligible for financial support under Union funds, such as the European Regional Development Fund - specific objective: a more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT¹⁵; the Digital Europe Programme¹⁶ - specific objective: deployment and best use of digital capacities and interoperability and the Recovery and Resilience Facility¹⁷ - pillars on digital transformation and on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including economic cohesion, jobs, productivity, competitiveness, research, development and innovation, and a well-functioning internal market with strong SMEs, provided they comply with the objectives and eligibility criteria therein.
- (57) In the event of a disagreement on technical and commercial terms and conditions during commercial negotiations on access to physical infrastructure or coordination of civil works, each party should be able to call on a national dispute settlement body to impose a solution on the parties to avoid unjustified refusals to meet the request or the imposition of unreasonable conditions. When determining prices for granting access to or cost-sharing for coordinated civil works, the dispute settlement body should ensure that the access provider and network operators planning civil works have a fair opportunity to recover their costs incurred in providing access to their physical infrastructure or coordinating their planned civil works. This should take into account ~~the appropriate Commission guidance~~, any

¹³ Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market ([OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, p. 36](#)).

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, to procedures and to assistance and problem-solving services and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 ([OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 1](#)).

¹⁵ Article 3(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 60)

¹⁶ Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme and repealing Decision (EU) 2015/2240 (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1)

¹⁷ Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17)

specific national conditions, any tariff structures put in place and any previous imposition of remedies by a national regulatory authority. The dispute settlement body should also take into account the impact of the requested access or coordination of planned civil works on the business plan of the access provider or network operators planning civil works, including their investments made or planned, in particular investments in the physical infrastructure to which the request refers.

- (58) To avoid delays in network deployments, the national dispute settlement body should settle the dispute in a timely manner and, in any event, at the latest within 4 months from receipt of the request to settle the dispute in the case of disputes on access to existing physical infrastructure and 12 months when it concerns transparency on physical infrastructure, coordination of planned civil works and transparency on planned civil works. Exceptional circumstances justifying a delay in the settlement of a dispute could be beyond the control of the dispute settlement bodies, such as insufficient information or documentation that is necessary to take a decision, including the views of other competent authorities that need to be consulted or the high complexity of the file.
- (59) Where disputes arise on access to the physical infrastructure, planned civil works or information thereof to deploy very high capacity networks, the dispute settlement body should have the power to resolve such disputes by means of a binding decision. In any case, decisions of such a body should be without prejudice to the possibility of any party to refer the case to a court or to conduct a prior or parallel conciliation mechanism to the formal dispute settlement, which could take the form of mediation or an additional round of exchanges.
- (60) In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, this Regulation should be without prejudice to the possibility of Member States to allocate regulatory tasks to the authorities best suited to fulfil them in accordance with the national constitutional system of attribution of competences and powers and the requirements set out in this Regulation. To reduce the administrative burden, Member States should be allowed to appoint an existing body or maintain the competent bodies already appointed pursuant to Directive (EU) 2014/61/EU. Information on the tasks allocated to the competent body or bodies should be published via a single information point and notified to the Commission, unless already done pursuant to Directive (EU) 2014/61/EU. The discretion that Member States retain to allocate the functions of the single information point to more than one competent body should not affect their ability to effectively fulfil those functions.
- (61) The designated national dispute settlement body and the competent body performing the functions of the single information point should ensure impartiality, independence and structural separation towards the parties involved, exercise their powers impartially, transparently and in a timely manner; and have the appropriate competencies and resources.
- (62) Member States should provide for appropriate, effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties in the event of non-compliance with this Regulation or with a binding decision adopted by the competent bodies, including cases where a network operator or public sector body knowingly or grossly and negligently provides misleading, erroneous or incomplete information via a single information point.

- (63) Since the objectives of this Regulation aiming at facilitating the deployment of physical infrastructures suitable for very high capacity networks across the Union **in a way which promotes the internal market** cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States because of persistent divergent approaches as well as the slow and ineffective transposition of Directive 2014/61/EU but can rather, by reason of the scale of the network deployments and investment required, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 TEU. 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.
- (63b) This Regulation is without prejudice to the Member States' responsibility for safeguarding national security or their power to safeguard other essential State functions, in particular concerning public security, territorial integrity and the maintenance of law and order.**
- (64) This Regulation respects fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular this Regulation seeks to ensure full respect for the right to private life and the protection of business secrets, the freedom to conduct business, the right to property and the right to an effective remedy. This Regulation has to be applied in accordance with those rights and principles.
- (65) This Regulation includes provisions covering all the substance areas covered by Directive 2014/61/EU, which should therefore be repealed.
- (66) A period of ~~six~~ **eighteen** months between the entry into force and the application aims to give sufficient time to Member States to ensure their national legislation does not contain any obstacles to the uniform and effective application of this Regulation. The period of ~~6~~ **eighteen** months is without prejudice to the specific rules in this Regulation on the delayed application of specific provisions as specified therein. Member States are to withdraw national provisions overlapping with this Regulation or contradicting it by the time it starts to apply. As regards adopting new legislation during this period, it follows from Article 4(3) TEU that Member States have a duty of sincere cooperation not to take action that would conflict with prospective Union legal rules,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Subject matter and scope

1. This Regulation aims to facilitate and stimulate the roll-out of very high capacity networks by promoting the joint use of existing physical infrastructure and by enabling a more efficient deployment of new physical infrastructure so that such networks can be rolled out faster and at a lower cost.
2. If any provision of this Regulation conflicts with a provision of Directive (EU) 2018/1972 or Directive 2002/77/EC, the relevant provision of those Directives shall prevail.
3. **This Regulation sets minimum requirements for achieving the aims set out in paragraph 1.** Member States may maintain or introduce ~~measures~~ **rules** in conformity with Union law **which are stricter or more detailed than those minimum requirements** ~~which contain more detailed provisions than those set out in this Regulation,~~ where they serve to promote the joint use of existing physical infrastructure or enable a more efficient deployment of new physical infrastructure.
4. By way of exception to paragraph 3, Member States shall not maintain or introduce ~~in their national law provisions diverging from~~ **measures rules which are stricter or more detailed than** those laid down in Article 3(3), **except its point (f),** and (6), Article 4(45) **second subparagraph,** Article 5(2) **second subparagraph** and (4), Article 6(2) and Article 8(7) and (8).
- 5. This Regulation is without prejudice to the Member States' responsibility for safeguarding national security and their power to safeguard other essential State functions, including ensuring the territorial integrity of the State and maintaining law and order.**

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the definitions of ‘**electronic communications network**’, ‘**very high capacity network**’, ‘**public electronic communications network**’, ‘**network termination point**’, ‘**associated facilities**’, ‘**end-user**’, ‘**security of networks and services**’, ‘**access**’, and ‘**operator**’ in Directive (EU) 2018/1972 apply.

The following definitions also apply:

(1) ‘network operator’ means:

(a) an operator as defined in Article 2, point (29), of Directive (EU) 2018/1972;

(b) an undertaking providing a physical infrastructure intended to provide:

(i) a service of production, transport or distribution of:

- gas;
- electricity, including public lighting;
- heating;
- water, including disposal or treatment of wastewater and sewage, and drainage systems;

(ii) transport services, including railways, roads, **including urban roads**, ports and airports;

(2) ‘public sector body’ means a State, regional or local authority, a body governed by public law or an association formed by one or several such authorities or one or several such bodies governed by public law;

(23) ‘physical infrastructure’ means:

(a) any element of a network that is intended to host other elements of a network without becoming an active element of the network itself, such as pipes, masts, ducts, inspection

chambers, manholes, cabinets, antenna installations, towers and poles, as well as, **where they are suitable to host other elements of a network**, buildings **including their rooftops and parts of their facades** or entries to buildings, and any other asset including street furniture, such as light poles, street signs, traffic lights, billboards, **tolls frames**, bus and tramway stops and metro **and ~~train~~ railway** stations;

- (b) where they are not part of a network and are owned or controlled by public sector bodies: **public land**, buildings **including their rooftops and parts of their facades** or entries to buildings, and any other asset **that could be suitable to host elements of a network**, including street furniture, such as light poles, street signs, traffic lights, billboards, **tolls frames**, bus and tramway stops and metro **and ~~train~~ railway** stations.

Cables, including dark fibre, as well as elements of networks used for the provision of water intended for human consumption as defined in Article 2, point 1, of Council (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁸ are not physical infrastructure within the meaning of this Regulation;

(34) ‘civil works’ means every outcome of building or civil engineering works taken as a whole that is sufficient in itself to fulfil an economic or technical function and entails one or more elements of a physical infrastructure;

~~(4) ‘public sector body’ means a State, regional or local authority, a body governed by public law or an association formed by one or several such authorities or one or several such bodies governed by public law;~~

(5) ‘bodies governed by public law’ means bodies that have all of the following characteristics:

- (a) they are established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character;
- (b) they have legal personality;
- (c) they are financed, in full or for the most part, by state, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law; or are subject to management supervision by those authorities or bodies; or have an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more

¹⁸ Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (OJ L 435, 23.12.2020, p. 1).

than half of whose members are appointed by state, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law;

(6) ‘in-building physical infrastructure’ means physical infrastructure or installations at the end user’s location, including elements under joint ownership, intended to host wired and/or wireless access networks, where such access networks are capable of delivering electronic communications services and connecting the building access point with the network termination point **or, in those Member States where the network termination point is not situated at the particular location of each end user’s particular location, with to up to the physical point where the end user has to connect to be able to access the public network.**

(7) ‘in-building fibre wiring’ means optical fibre cables at the end-user’s location, including elements under joint ownership, intended to deliver electronic communications services and connecting the building access point with the network termination point, **or, in those Member States, where the network termination point is not situated at the particular location of each end user’s particular location, with to up to the physical point where the end user has to connect to be able to access the public network.**

(8) ‘fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure’ means in-building physical infrastructure intended to host optical fibre elements;

(9) ‘major renovation works’ means building or civil engineering works at the end user’s location encompassing structural modifications of the entire in-building physical infrastructure or a significant part thereof and that require, **in accordance with national law**, a building permit;

(10) ‘permit’ means an explicit or implicit decision or set of decisions taken simultaneously or successively by one or several competent authorities that are needed for an undertaking to carry out building or civil engineering works necessary for the deployment of elements of very high capacity networks;

(11) ‘**building** access point’ means a physical point, located inside or outside the building, **easily** accessible to one or more undertakings providing or authorised to provide public electronic communications networks, where connection to the fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure is made available.

(12) ‘rights of way’ means rights referred to in Article 43(1) of the Directive (EU) 2018/1972].

Article 3

Access to existing physical infrastructure

1. **Without prejudice to paragraph 3, all** ~~Upon written request of an operator,~~ public sector bodies owning or controlling physical infrastructure or network operators, **shall meet, upon written request of an operator,** ~~shall meet~~ all reasonable requests for access to that physical infrastructure under fair and reasonable terms and conditions, including price, with a view to deploying elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities. Public sector bodies owning or controlling physical infrastructure shall meet all reasonable requests for access also under non-discriminatory terms and conditions. Such written requests shall specify the elements of the physical infrastructure for which the access is requested, including a specific time frame.

Member States may specify detailed requirements for these requests.

2. When determining ~~prices as part of fair, and~~ reasonable **and non-discriminatory** terms and conditions, **including price,** for granting access, network operators and public sector bodies owning or controlling physical infrastructure shall take into account **at least** the following:

- (a) **existing contracts and commercial terms and conditions agreed between ~~the operators seeking access and the network operators~~ or ~~public bodies~~ granting access.**
- (ab) the need to ensure that the access provider, **including the providers of associated facilities,** has a fair opportunity to recover the costs it incurs in order to provide access to its physical infrastructure, taking into account specific national conditions, **business models,** and any tariff structures put in place to provide a fair opportunity for cost recovery; in the case of electronic communications networks, any remedies imposed by a national regulatory authority shall also be taken into account.
- (bc) the impact of the requested access on the access provider's business plan, including investments in the physical infrastructure to which the access has been requested, **as well as the need to ensure that the access provider receives a fair return on its investment, which reflects the relevant market conditions and, in particular in the case of the providers of associated facilities when they operate as a wholesale only model which**

offers physical access to more than one host undertaking that provides or that are authorised to provide public electronic networks, their different business models;

(e) In the specific case of access to physical infrastructure of operators, National Regulatory Authorities, or when relevant, dispute settlement bodies, taking into account when relevant the guidance established in accordance with paragraph 9, may ~~include~~ consider when determining the fair and reasonable terms and conditions, including the prices, for granting the access:

- the economic viability of those investments based on their risk profile,
- any time schedule for the return on investment,
- any impact of access on downstream competition and consequently on prices and return on investment,
- any depreciation of the network assets at the time of the access request,
- any business case underpinning the investment at the time it was made, in particular in the physical infrastructures used for the provision of connectivity, and
- any possibility previously offered to the access seeker to co-invest in the deployment of the physical infrastructure, notably pursuant to Article 76 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972, or to co-deploy alongside it.

~~the economic viability of those investments based on their risk profile, any time schedule for the return on investment, any impact of access on downstream competition and consequently on prices and return on investment, any depreciation of the network assets at the time of the access request, any business case underpinning the investment at the time it was made, in particular in the physical infrastructures used for the provision of connectivity, and any possibility previously offered to the access seeker to co-invest in the deployment of the physical infrastructure, notably pursuant to Article 76 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972, or to co-deploy alongside it.~~

3. Network operators and public sector bodies owning or controlling physical infrastructure may refuse access to specific physical infrastructure based on one or more of the following conditions:

- (a) there is a lack of technical suitability of the physical infrastructure to which access has been requested to host any of the elements of very high capacity networks referred to in paragraph 21;
- (b) there is a lack of availability of space to host the elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities referred to in paragraph 12, including after having taken into account the future need for space of the access provider that is sufficiently demonstrated, **such as in the publicly available investments plans or by a threshold for allowed capacity as a percentage of the entire capacity**;
- (c) the existence of **duly justified reasons regarding** safety and public health ~~concerns~~;
- (d) ~~concerns for~~ **the existence of duly justified reasons regarding** the integrity and security of any network, in particular critical national infrastructure;
- (e) the **existence of duly justified** risk of serious interferences of the planned electronic communications services with the provision of other services over the same physical infrastructure; or
- (f) the availability of viable alternative means of wholesale physical access to electronic communications networks, **including access to dark fibre or fibre unbundling**, provided by the same network operator and suitable for the provision of very high capacity networks, provided that such access is offered under fair and reasonable terms and conditions.
- (g) **if provided by a Member State, the availability of viable alternative means of non-discriminatory open wholesale access to electronic communications networks provided by the same network operator and suitable for the provision of very high capacity networks, provided that**
- i. **such alternative means of wholesale access is offered under fair and reasonable terms and conditions,**
 - ii. **the access provider is an undertaking providing or authorised to provide electronic communications networks and the access seeker is an operator with significant market power in a market related to the area where the physical infrastructure subject to the access request is located, and**

- iii. **the deployment project of the requesting operator addresses the same coverage area and there is no other fibre network connecting end-user premises (FttP) serving this coverage area.**

In the event of a refusal to provide access, the network operator or the public sector body owning or controlling physical infrastructure shall communicate to the access seeker, in writing, the specific and detailed reasons for such refusal **as soon as possible, and no later than within 4two months** from the date of the receipt of the complete request for access.

4. Member States may establish **or designate** a body to coordinate access requests to physical infrastructure owned or controlled by public sector bodies, provide legal and technical advice through the negotiation of access terms and conditions, and facilitate the provision of information via a single information point referred to in Article 10.

5. Physical infrastructure which is already subject to access obligations imposed by national regulatory authorities pursuant to Directive (EU) 2018/1972, **by other competent authorities** or resulting from the application of Union State aid rules shall not be subject to the obligations set out in paragraphs **1, 2, and 3 and 4**, for as long as such access obligations are in place.

6. Public sector bodies owning or controlling ~~buildings~~ **physical infrastructure** or certain categories of ~~buildings~~ **physical infrastructure** may not apply paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 to those ~~buildings~~ **physical infrastructure** or categories of ~~buildings~~ **physical infrastructure** for reasons of architectural, historical, religious, or ~~natural~~ **enviromental** value, or for reasons of public security, **defence**, safety and health. Member States shall identify such ~~buildings~~ **physical infrastructure** or categories of ~~buildings~~ **physical infrastructure** in their territories based on duly justified and proportionate reasons. Information on such ~~buildings~~ **physical infrastructure** or categories of ~~buildings~~ **physical infrastructure** and the criteria applied to identify them, shall be published via a single information point and notified to the Commission. **In exceptional and duly justified circumstances, access can be refused, even if the category of physical infrastructure or the physical infrastructure has not been identified beforehand. The Member States shall, in such cases, identify without delay the physical infrastructure or the category of physical infrastructure and proceed immediately to its publication in the single information point, including the criteria applied for such identification.**

7. Operators shall have the right to offer access to their physical infrastructure for the purpose of deploying networks other than electronic communications networks or associated facilities.

8. This Article shall be without prejudice to the right to property of the owner of the physical infrastructure where the network operator or the public sector body is not the owner and to the right to property of any other third party, such as landowners and private property owners, **or rights resulting from contracts.**

9. ~~After having consulted stakeholders, the national dispute settlement bodies and other competent Union bodies or agencies in the relevant sectors as appropriate, the Commission may, in close cooperation with BEREC, provide~~ **Member States may provide** guidance on the application of this Article.

Article 4

Transparency on physical infrastructure

1. In order to request access to physical infrastructure in accordance with Article 3, any operator shall have the right to access, upon request, the following minimum information on existing physical infrastructure in electronic format via a single information point:

- (a) georeferenced location and route;
- (b) type and current use of the infrastructure;
- (c) a contact point.

Such minimum information shall be accessible promptly, under proportionate, non-discriminatory and transparent terms and, in any event no later than 15 **working** days after the request for information is submitted. **In duly justified cases, the deadline ~~could~~ may be extended by 15 working days. Operators requesting access shall be informed of the new deadline via a single information point.**

Any operator requesting access to information pursuant to this Article shall specify the area in which it envisages deploying elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities.

Access to the minimum information may be limited **or refused** only where necessary to ensure the security of certain buildings owned or controlled by public sector bodies, the security of the networks and their integrity, national security, **the security of national critical infrastructure,**

public health or safety, **where physical infrastructures are not subject to access obligations according to Article 3(6)**, or for reasons of confidentiality or operating and business secrets.

2. Network operators and public sector bodies shall make available ~~as soon as possible promptly~~ the minimum information referred to in paragraph 1, via ~~a~~ the single information point and in electronic format, ~~by~~ **and not later than 18 months after the entry into force of this Regulation**[DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE + 12 MONTHS]. Under the same conditions, network operators and public sector bodies shall make available promptly any update to that information and any new minimum information referred to in paragraph 1. **In case network operators or public sector bodies do not comply with the obligation set out in paragraph 1, the competent authorities may request within no more than 15 working days the missing information referred in paragraph 1 is provided in electronic format, without prejudice to the possibility for Member States to impose penalties for not complying with this obligation.**

3. Network operators and public sector bodies shall meet reasonable requests for on-site surveys of specific elements of their physical infrastructure upon specific request of an operator. Such requests shall specify the elements of the physical infrastructure concerned with a view to deploying elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities. On-site surveys of the specified elements of the physical infrastructure shall be granted under proportionate, non-discriminatory and transparent terms within 1 month from the date of receipt of the request, subject to the limitations set out in paragraph 1, fourth subparagraph. **Member States may specify detailed requirements on such request.**

4. **Member States may decide that p**Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 ~~need~~**shall not apply to parts of** critical national infrastructure as defined under national law **for security reasons.**

5. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply:

- (a) in the case of physical infrastructure that is not technically suitable for the deployment of very high capacity networks or associated facilities'; or
- (b) in specific cases where the obligation to provide information about certain existing **types of** physical infrastructure pursuant to paragraph 1, first subparagraph, would be disproportionate, on the basis of a ~~detailed~~ cost-benefit analysis conducted by Member States and based on a consultation with stakeholders.

The justification, criteria and conditions for applying Any such exceptions shall be published via a single information point and notified to the Commission.

56. Operators that obtain access to information pursuant to this Article shall take appropriate measures to ensure respect for confidentiality and operating and business secrets.

Article 5

Coordination of civil works

1. Any network operator shall have the right to negotiate agreements on the coordination of civil works, including on the apportioning of costs, with operators with a view to deploying elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities.

2. Any network operator when performing or planning to perform directly or indirectly civil works, which are fully or partially financed by public means, shall meet any reasonable written request to coordinate those civil works under transparent and non-discriminatory terms made by operators with a view to deploying elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities. **Member states may specify detailed requirements on such request.**

Such requests shall be met provided that the following cumulative conditions are met:

- (a) this will not entail any unrecoverable additional costs, including those caused by additional delays, for the network operator that initially envisaged the civil works in question, without prejudice to the possibility of agreeing on apportioning the costs between the parties concerned;
- (b) the network operator initially envisaging the civil works remains in control over the coordination of the works;
- (c) the request to coordinate is filed as soon as possible and, when a permit is necessary, at least 2 months before the submission of the final project to the competent authorities for granting permits.

3. A request to coordinate civil works made by an undertaking providing or authorised to provide public electronic communications networks to an undertaking providing or authorised to provide

public electronic communications networks may be deemed unreasonable where both following conditions are met:

- (a) the request concerns an area which has been subject to either of the following:
 - (i) a forecast of the reach of broadband networks, including very high capacity networks pursuant to Article 22(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/1972;
 - (ii) an invitation to declare the intention to deploy very high capacity networks pursuant to Article 22(3) of Directive (EU) 2018/1972;
 - (iii) a public consultation in applying Union State aid rules;
- (b) the requesting undertaking failed to express its intention to deploy very high capacity networks in the area referred to in point (a) in any of the most recent procedures among those listed in that point covering the period during which the request for coordination is made.

If a request to coordinate is considered unreasonable on the basis of the first subparagraph, the undertaking providing or authorised to provide public electronic communications networks refusing the coordination of civil works shall deploy physical infrastructure with sufficient capacity to accommodate possible future reasonable needs for third-party access.

4. **Member States may decide that** Paragraphs 2 and 3 ~~need~~ **shall** not apply to civil works that are limited in scope, such as in terms of value, size or duration, or for critical national infrastructure. Member States shall identify the type of civil works considered to be limited in scope or related, **based on Union or national law**, to critical national infrastructure based on duly justified and proportionate reasons. Information on such types of civil works shall be published via a single information point. **Member States may decide not to publish information related to critical national infrastructure and notified to the Commission.**

5. ~~After having consulted stakeholders, the national dispute settlement bodies and other competent Union bodies or agencies in the relevant sectors as appropriate, the Commission may, in close cooperation with BEREC, provide guidance on the application of this Article.~~ **Member States may provide guidance on the application of this Article.**

Article 6

Transparency on planned civil works

1. In order to negotiate agreements on coordination of civil works referred to in Articles 5.21 and 5.2, any network operator shall make available in electronic format via a single information point the following minimum information:

- (a) the georeferenced location and the type of works;
- (b) the ~~network~~ elements **of physical infrastructure** involved **as well as elements of the very high capacity networks**;
- (c) the estimated date for starting the works and their duration;
- (d) the estimated date for submitting the final project to the competent authorities for granting permits, where applicable;
- (e) a contact point.

The network operator shall make available the information referred to in the first subparagraph for planned civil works related to its physical infrastructure, **including when urban roads or pavements under ownership or control of public sector bodies are built or renovated**. This must be done as soon as the information is available to the network operator and, in any event and where a permit is envisaged, not later than 3 months prior to the first submission of the request for a permit to the competent authorities.

Operators shall have the right to access the minimum information referred to in the first subparagraph in electronic format, upon request, via ~~the~~ single information point. The request for access to information shall specify the area in which the requesting operator envisages deploying elements of very high capacity networks, **which can be used for the purpose of deploying electronic communication** or associated facilities. Within ~~+~~ **two** weeks from the date of the receipt of the request for information, the requested information shall be made available under proportionate, non-discriminatory and transparent terms. Access to the minimum information may be limited only to the extent necessary to ensure the security of the networks **including that of critical infrastructures**, and their integrity, national security, public health or safety, confidentiality or operating and business secrets.

2. **Member States may decide that p**Paragraph 1 ~~need~~**shall** not apply to information on civil works **that are** limited in scope, such as in terms of value, size or duration, in the case of critical national infrastructure, or for reasons of national security or emergency. Member States shall identify, based on duly justified and proportionate reasons, the **type of** civil works that would be considered limited in scope or concern critical national infrastructure, as well as the emergencies or the reasons of national security that would justify not being subject to the obligation to provide information. Information on such civil works excluded from transparency obligations shall be published via a single information point ~~and notified to the Commission.~~ **Member States may decide not to publish information related to critical national infrastructure.**

Article 7

Procedure for granting permits, including rights of way

1. Competent authorities shall not unduly restrict, ~~or hinder or make economically less attractive~~ the deployment of any element of very high capacity networks or associated facilities. Member States shall ~~ensure~~ **make their best efforts to facilitate** that any rules governing the conditions and procedures applicable for granting permits, including rights of way, required for the deployment of elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities are consistent across the national territory.
2. Competent authorities shall make available all information on the conditions and procedures applicable for granting permits, including rights of way, including any information on exemptions on some or all permits or rights of way required under national or Union law, via a single information point in electronic format.
3. **Competent authorities shall ensure that** ~~Any operators shall have the right to~~ **can** submit, via a single information point in electronic format, applications for permits, ~~or~~ **including for** rights of way and to retrieve information about the status of its application.
4. **Without prejudice to Article 6(2), t**he competent authorities shall, within 15 working days from its receipt, reject applications for permits, including for rights of way, for which the minimum information has not been made available via a single information point, pursuant to Article 6(1) first subparagraph, by the same operator which applies for that permit.

5. The competent authorities shall grant or refuse permits, other than rights of way, within 4 months from the date of the receipt of a complete permit application.

The completeness of the application for permits or rights of way shall be determined by the competent authorities within ~~15~~ **30 working** days from the receipt of the application. Unless the competent authorities invited the applicant to provide any missing information within that period, the application shall be deemed complete.

The first and second subparagraph shall be without prejudice to other specific deadlines or obligations laid down for the proper conduct of the procedure that are applicable to the permit-granting procedure, including appeal proceedings, in accordance with Union law or national law in compliance with Union law.

By way of exception and based on a justified reason ~~set out by a Member State~~, the 4 month deadline referred to in the first subparagraph and in paragraph 6 may be extended by the competent authority on its own motion. Any extension shall be the shortest possible **and not exceed 4 months; except where required to meet other specific deadlines or obligations laid down for the proper conduct of the procedure that are applicable to the permit-granting procedure, including appeal proceedings, in accordance with Union law or national law in compliance with Union law.** Member States shall set out the reasons justifying such an extension, **and** publish them in advance via single information points ~~and notify them to the Commission.~~

Any refusal of a permit ~~or~~ **including a** right of way shall be duly justified on the basis of objective, transparent, non-discriminatory and proportionate criteria.

6. By way of derogation from Article 43(1), point (a) of Directive (EU) 2018/1972, where rights of way **on**, over or under public, or **where applicable**, private property, **with the prior authorisation of the owner or in accordance with national law**, are required for the deployment of elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities in addition to permits, competent authorities shall grant such rights of way within the 4 month period from the date of receipt of the application, **except in the case of expropriation.**

7. In the absence of a response from the competent authority:

- i. within the 4-month deadline referred to in paragraphs 5 first subparagraph, ~~and unless such deadline is extended pursuant to paragraph 5 fourth subparagraph~~, **the applicants may reiterate the application within 15 working days. If no response is received**

within an additional 4 months period following the reiteration of the application, the permit shall be deemed ~~to have been~~ **be granted** provided that this does not adversely affect the rights of third parties or

- ii. where the original deadline for the granting or the rejection of the permit has been extended pursuant to paragraph 5 fourth subparagraph, the permit shall be deemed ~~to have been~~ **be granted** after the expiry of the extended deadline set out by the competent authority provided that this does not adversely affect the rights of third parties.
- iii. In the absence of a response from the competent authority within the 4-month deadline referred to in paragraphs 5 first subparagraph, and unless such deadline is extended pursuant to paragraph 5 fourth subparagraph, the permit shall be deemed to have been granted, except where the principle of tacit approval does not exist under the national law of the Member State, including for rights of way.

7a. Paragraph 7 shall apply provided that there is a due agreement for the use of land or infrastructure on which the deployment is intended to be carried out and ~~This shall also apply~~ in the case of rights of way referred to in paragraph 6.

8. ~~The Commission~~ **Member states** shall, in accordance with national law ~~by means of an implementing act~~, specify categories of deployment of elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities that shall not be subject to any permit-granting procedure within the meaning of this Article. ~~This implementing act shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 13.~~

9. ~~Competent~~ **Member States** authorities shall not subject the deployment of elements referred to in paragraph 8 to any individual town planning permit or other individual prior permits. By way of derogation, ~~competent authorities~~ may require permits for the deployment of elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities on buildings or sites of architectural, historical, religious or ~~natural~~ **enviromental** value protected in accordance with national law or where necessary for public safety **or enviromental** reasons.

10. Permits, other than rights of way, required for the deployment of elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities shall not be subject to any fees or charges going beyond administrative costs as provided for, *mutatis mutandis*, in Article 16 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972.

~~11. Any operator that has suffered damage as a result of non-compliance with the deadlines applicable under paragraphs 5 and 6 shall receive compensation for the damage suffered, in accordance with national law.~~

Article 8

In-building physical infrastructure and fibre wiring

- ~~1. All newly constructed buildings, or those undergoing major renovation works, including multi-dwelling buildings containing elements under joint ownership, at the end-user's location, ~~including elements under joint ownership, newly constructed or undergoing major renovation works~~, for which applications for building permits have been submitted after **18 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation** [~~ENTRY INTO FORCE + 12 MONTHS~~], shall be equipped with a **building access point, a** fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure **, and the in-building fibre wiring, including with a building access point and connections** up to the network termination points, **or, in those Member States where the network termination point is not situated at the particular location of each** end user's **particular location, with to up to the physical point where the end user has to connects to be able to** access the public network, as well as with in-building fibre wiring.~~
- ~~2. All multi-dwelling buildings newly constructed or undergoing major renovation works, for which applications for building permits have been submitted after [~~ENTRY INTO FORCE + 12 MONTHS~~], shall be equipped with an access point~~
- ~~3. If it does not disproportionately increase the costs of the renovation works and is technically feasible, bBy **18 months after the date of enter into force of this Regulation** [~~ENTRY INTO FORCE + 12 MONTHS~~], all buildings at the end-users' location, including elements thereof under joint ownership, undergoing major renovations as defined in point 10 of Article 2 of Directive 2010/31/EU shall be equipped with a **building access point, a** fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure, **with a building access point and the in-building fibre wiring, including connections** up to the network termination points, **or, in those Member States where the network termination point is not situated at the particular location of each** end user's **particular location, with to up to the physical point where the end user has to connects to be able to** access the public network, as well as with in-building fibre wiring.~~

4. Member States shall adopt the relevant standards or technical specifications that are necessary for the implementation of paragraphs 1, ~~2~~ and 3 ~~before~~ **at the latest 18 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation** [~~ENTRY INTO FORCE + 9 months~~]. Those standards or technical specifications ~~shall~~ **may** set ~~at least~~:

- (a) the building access point specifications and fibre interface specifications;
- (b) cable specifications;
- (c) socket specifications;
- (d) specifications of pipes or micro-ducts;
- (e) technical specifications needed to prevent interference with electrical cabling;
- (f) the minimum bend radius.

5. Buildings equipped in accordance with this Article shall be eligible, **on a voluntary basis and following the procedures set up by Member states**, to receive a ‘fibre-ready’ label.

6. Member States ~~shall~~**may** set up certification schemes for the purpose of demonstrating compliance with the standards or technical specifications referred to in paragraph 4 as well as for qualifying for the ‘fibre-ready’ label provided for in paragraph 5 ~~before~~ [~~ENTRY INTO FORCE + 12 months~~] **at the latest 18 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation.**

Member States shall make the issuance of the building permits referred to in paragraphs 1 and ~~2~~ **3** conditional upon compliance with the standards or technical specifications referred to in this paragraph on the basis of a **technical project, and when applicable, the permit to use the building for its intended purpose after completion of construction, on the basis of a certified test report or a similar procedure set up by Member States, which could include on-site inspection of the buildings or a representative sample of them.**

7. Paragraphs 1, ~~2~~ and 3 shall not apply to certain categories of buildings, ~~in particular single-dwelling buildings~~, where compliance with those paragraphs is disproportionate, ~~in particular~~ in terms of costs for individual or joint owners based on objective elements, **in particular in the case of certain single-dwelling buildings.** Member States shall identify such categories of buildings based on duly justified and proportionate reasons.

8. **Member States may decide that paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 need shall** not apply to certain types of buildings, such as specific categories of monuments, historic buildings, military buildings and buildings used for national security purposes, as defined by national law. Member States shall identify such categories of buildings based on duly justified and proportionate reasons. Information on such categories of buildings shall be published via a single information point and notified to the Commission.

Article 9

Access to in-building physical infrastructure

1. Subject to paragraph 3, first subparagraph, any **provider of** public electronic communications networks ~~provider~~ shall have the right to roll out its network at its own costs up to the **building** access point.

2. Subject to paragraph 3, any **provider of** public electronic communications networks ~~provider~~ shall have the right to access any existing in-building physical infrastructure with a view to deploying elements of very high capacity networks if duplication is technically impossible or economically inefficient.

3. Any holder of a right to use the **building** access point and the in-building physical infrastructure shall meet all reasonable **written** requests for access to the **building** access point and the in-building physical infrastructure from **providers of** public electronic communications networks ~~providers~~ under fair, **reasonable** and non-discriminatory terms and conditions, including price, where appropriate.

Any holder of a right to use the **building** access point or the in-building physical infrastructure may refuse access where access to in-building fibre wiring is provided pursuant to obligations imposed under Directive (EU) 2018/1972, under Title II, Chapters II to IV, or made available under fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions, including price.

4. In the absence of available fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure, ~~every~~ **any provider of** public electronic communications networks ~~provider~~ shall have the right to terminate its network at the premises of the subscriber, subject to the agreement of the **owner or the** subscriber, provided that it minimises the impact on the private property of third parties.

5. This Article shall be without prejudice to the right to property of the owner of the **building** access point or the in-building physical infrastructure where the holder of a right to use that infrastructure or access point is not the owner thereof, and to the right to property of other third parties, such as landowners and building owners.

6. ~~After having consulted stakeholders, the national dispute settlement bodies and other competent Union bodies or agencies in the relevant sectors as appropriate, the Commission may, in close cooperation with BEREC,~~ **Member states may** provide guidance on the application of this Article.

Article 10

Digitalisation of single information points

1. Single information points shall make appropriate digital tools available, such as in the form of web portals, **databases**, digital platforms or digital applications, to enable the online exercise of all the rights and the compliance with all the obligations set out in this Regulation.
2. Member States may interconnect or fully or partially integrate several digital tools supporting the single information points referred to paragraph 1, as appropriate.
3. Member States shall set out a single national digital entry point, consisting of a common user interface ensuring seamless access to the digitalised single information points.

Article 11

Dispute settlement

1. Without prejudice to the possibility to refer the case to a court, any party shall be entitled to refer to the competent national dispute settlement body established pursuant to Article 12 a dispute that may arise:
 - (a) where access to existing infrastructure is refused or agreement on specific terms and conditions, including price, has not been reached within **12 months** from the date of receipt of the request for access under Article 3;
 - (b) in connection to the rights and obligations set out in Articles 4 and 6, including where the information requested is not provided within 15 **working days, or in duly**

justified cases within another 15 working days, after the request under Article 4 is submitted, and within **15 days** ~~1-week~~ after the request under Article 6 is submitted;

- (c) where an agreement on the coordination of civil works pursuant to Article 5(2) has not been reached within 1 month from the date of receipt of the formal request to coordinate civil works; or
- (d) where an agreement on access to in-building physical infrastructure referred to in Article 9(2) or (3) has not been reached within 1 month from the date of receipt of the formal request for access;

2. Taking full account of the principle of proportionality ~~and the principles established in Commission guidance~~, the national dispute settlement body referred to in paragraph 1 shall issue a binding decision to resolve the dispute at the latest:

- (a) within four months from the date of the receipt of the dispute settlement request, with respect to disputes referred to in paragraph 1, point (a);
- (b) within ~~one~~**two** months from the date of the receipt of the dispute settlement request, with respect to disputes referred to in paragraph 1, points (b), (c) and (d).

Those deadlines may only be extended in **duly justified** exceptional circumstances.

3. As regards disputes referred to in paragraph 1, points (a), (c) and (d) the decision of national dispute settlement body may consist in setting fair and reasonable terms and conditions, including price, where appropriate.

Where the dispute relates to access to the infrastructure of an operator and the national dispute settlement body is the national regulatory authority, the objectives set out in Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972 shall be taken into account, where appropriate.

4. ~~Theis rules laid down in the present Article are~~ ~~is in addition to~~ and without prejudice to the judicial remedies and procedures in compliance with Article 47 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union¹⁹.

¹⁹ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391–407)

Competent bodies

1. Each of the tasks assigned to the national dispute settlement body shall be undertaken by one or more competent bodies, which can be an existing body.
2. The national dispute settlement body shall be legally distinct and functionally independent of any network operator and any public sector body owning or controlling physical infrastructure involved in the dispute. Member States that retain ownership or control of network operators shall ensure effective structural separation of the functions related to the national dispute settlement procedures and those of the single information point from activities associated with ownership or control.

National dispute settlement bodies shall act independently and objectively, shall not seek or take instructions from any other body in relation to the exercise of the tasks assigned to them. This shall not prevent supervision in accordance with national law. Only competent appeal bodies shall have the power to suspend or overturn decisions of the national dispute settlement bodies.

3. The national dispute settlement body may charge fees to cover the costs of carrying out the tasks assigned to it.
4. All parties concerned by a dispute shall cooperate fully with the national dispute settlement body.
5. The functions of a single information point referred to in Articles 3 to 8 and 10 shall be performed by one or more competent bodies appointed by the Member States at national, regional or local level, as appropriate. In order to cover the costs of carrying out those functions, fees may be charged for the use of the single information points.
6. Paragraph 2, **first subparagraph**, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the competent bodies performing the functions of a single information point.
7. The competent bodies shall exercise their powers impartially, transparently and in a timely manner. Member States shall ensure that they shall have adequate technical, financial and human resources to carry out the tasks assigned to them.
8. Member States shall publish the respective tasks to be undertaken by each competent body via a single information point, in particular where those tasks are assigned to more than one competent

body or where the assigned tasks have changed. Where appropriate, the competent bodies shall consult and cooperate with each other on matters of common interest.

9. Member States shall notify to the Commission the identity of each competent body in accordance with this Article for carrying out a function under this Regulation, and their respective responsibilities, by **six twelve months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation** ~~[DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE]~~ and any modification thereof, before such designation or modification enters into force.

10. Any decision taken by a competent body shall be subject to an appeal, in accordance with national law, before a fully independent appeal body, including a body of judicial character. Article 31 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any appeal pursuant to this paragraph.

The right to appeal in accordance with the first subparagraph shall be without prejudice to the right of the parties to bring the dispute before the national competent court.

Article 13

Committee procedure

~~1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Communications Committee established by Article 118(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/1972. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.~~

~~2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.~~

Article 14

Penalties and compensation

Member States shall lay down rules on penalties, ~~including, where necessary, fines and non-criminal predetermined or periodic penalties~~, applicable to infringements of this Regulation and of any binding decision adopted pursuant to this Regulation by the competent bodies referred to in Article 12 and shall take all measures necessary to ensure that they are implemented. The penalties provided for shall be ~~appropriate~~, effective, proportionate and dissuasive.

Member States shall lay down rules on adequate financial compensation for persons suffering damage as a result of the exercise of the rights provided for in this Regulation.

Article 15

Report and monitoring

1. By **5 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation** [~~DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE + 5 YEARS~~], the Commission shall present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of this Regulation. The report shall include a summary of the impact of the measures set out in this Regulation and an assessment of the progress towards achieving its objectives, including whether and how the Regulation could further contribute to achieving the connectivity targets set out in the Decision establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030.
2. To that end, the Commission may request information from Member States that shall be submitted without undue delay. In particular, by **18 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation** [~~DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE + 12 MONTHS~~], Member States shall, in close cooperation with the Commission, through the Communications Committee set up under Article 118 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972, set out indicators to adequately monitor the application of this Regulation and the mechanism to ensure a periodic data gathering and reporting to the Commission thereof.

Article 16

Transitional measures

~~National measures that specify the categories of deployment of elements of very high capacity networks or associated facilities not being subject to any permit-granting procedure within the meaning of Article 7, and that were adopted by the Member States pursuant to Directive 2014/61/EU or before its entry into force but in line with it shall continue to apply until the implementing act provided for in Article 7(8) of this Regulation enters into application.~~

Article 17

Repeal

1. Directive 2014/61/EU is repealed.
2. References to the repealed Directive shall be construed as references to this Regulation and read in accordance with the correlation table in the Annex.

Article 18

Entry into force and application

1. This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
2. It shall apply from [~~6 months after its entry into force~~] **18-months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation.**

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President