Press release

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Arcep publishes its fourth report on the State of the Internet in France

Paris, 25 June 2020

Arcep is publishing the 2020 edition of its report on the state of the internet in France, submitted to Parliament and being presented today at a virtual press conference.

The internet as a common good, and responding to environmental concerns

In this report, Arcep lays out the most significant developments for the different components of fixed and mobile internet networks in 2019: quality of service, data interconnection, the transition to IPv6, net neutrality, device openness and the role played by platforms.

The purpose of this monitoring is to ensure that, through regulation, the internet continues to develop as a common good where users are the ultimate arbiter.

This year, for the first time, the report devotes an entire chapter to environmental issues in the digital sector, which today represents around 3% of the globe's greenhouse gas emissions. This marks the first step in the creation of the "Green Barometer" that Arcep wants to put into place – to provide the public with the most relevant data possible on the carbon footprint left by networks, devices and users' consumption – as part of a collaboration platform devoted to "Achieving digital sustainability," that was launched on 11 June.

First lessons learned from the public health crisis and resulting lockdown

Even though this is a report on the events of 2019, Arcep has also included its observations and the first lessons learned from the public health crisis and resulting lockdown in spring 2020, which had a tremendous impact on network use.

According to preliminary estimates[1], internet traffic increased by around 30% during the lockdown. Several conclusions can already been drawn about how the internet fared during this unprecedented situation. First, telecoms infrastructures proved their resilience, as there was no major congestion incident during the lockdown. This can be attributed to the networks' capacity and performance, but also to the exceptional mobilisation of the ecosystem's many stakeholders. They played a vital role in ensuring that the networks continued to run smoothly. A proactive dialogue established between operators and the leading content and application providers proved especially valuable in creating the ability to anticipate events that might impact the traffic load on networks. Lastly, the regulatory framework that protects net neutrality in Europe once again proved both its relevance, and its immense capacity to adapt.

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[1] *Netscout report based on data from French ISPs*

Arcep presents its 2020 report on the State of the Internet in France at a virtual press conference that is open to everyone

The presentation of the report on the State of the Internet in France will be different this year. At 10 am today, Arcep will be holding a virtual press conference during which Arcep Chair, Sébastien Soriano, and the members of the Arcep Executive Board will take questions from anyone watching the live steam.

This presentation and Q&A will be followed by a discussion between Sébastien Soriano and Benjamin Bayart, Co-founder of French advocacy group, the Quadrature du Net, and Co-president of the Federation of non-profit internet service providers (FDN), on the topic of "Networks during the COVID-19 crisis: what have we learned?"

The press conference and the discussion will be streamed at the following URL: https://video.arcep.fr/fr/letat-de-linternet-juin-2020

Associated documents:

- The report

- Report summary

Arcep at a glance

The Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications, Postal Affairs and Print Media Distribution (Arcep), a neutral and expert arbitrator with the status of independent administrative authority (IAA), is the architect and guardian of internet, fixed and mobile telecoms and postal networks in France.