



autorité de régulation
des communications électroniques
et des postes

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS

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PRESS KIT

French regulatory authority for the communications network industries

Arcep contact at MWC 2016

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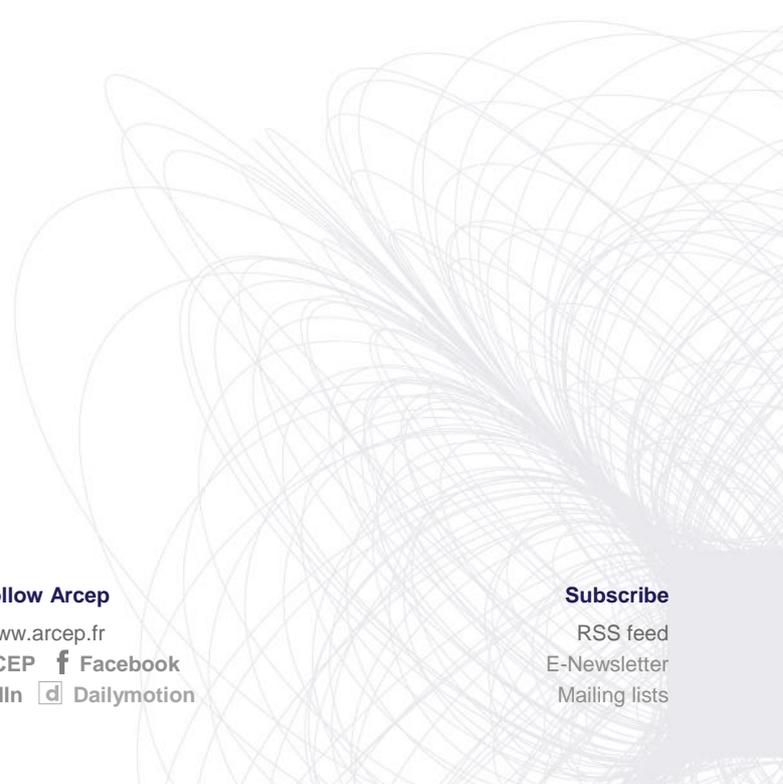
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BUILDING A PRO-INNOVATION REGULATION

Public policy issues related to the Internet of Things

In the coming years, billions of new devices will be connected to the Internet, and will have the abilities to interact, send information and communicate. The Internet of things will be a mix of objects, communication technologies and networks.

As a regulator, our first responsibility towards this rising tide is to open up our ears and initiate a dialogue with the industry. Our first goal must be to understand and facilitate the self-organization of the ecosystem. This is important because regulatory problematics must be anticipated. But the market is still at an early stage: standards have not yet emerged, and any regulatory action must therefore be carefully designed in order not to curb innovation.

To initiate this dialogue, Arcep is currently conducting a cycle of hearings on the topic. The idea is to map public policy issues at 360° in association with the French administrations in charge of privacy, of security, of startups, etc.

But the most important responsibility that we have, is to do all we can to keep the game open and loyal between actors. As with all disruptive innovation, there is a risk that incumbents preempt the Internet of things. The mobile ecosystem will of course have a very important role in this industry but regulators must be careful not to take any decision that can create extra barriers for incomers, i.e. non mobile players.

This means ensuring the availability of scarce resources to support all kind of innovation, whether it comes from already installed players or from challengers outside the usual ecosystem. Spectrum access is of course a big issue, and so are the numbering systems and addressing schemes. Arcep is also working on how to accelerate the migration to IPv6, which is one of the answers to those challenges.

What is at stake is the ability to encourage innovation and competitiveness across the whole of our economy. Europe has the potential to be very successful in this field. French companies, beyond others, have recently demonstrated a noticeable energy in this domain, from the various French Tech products displayed here at the MWC to the low broadband technologies Sigfox and Lora that could – who knows? – become worldwide standards.

Looking farther ahead, the real challenge for scaling up is to accelerate the development of Industrial Internet technologies. And this means to build confidence, through quality of service, coverage, resilience, security, but also interoperability, or at least some kind of portability, because not every company is going to be willing to put part of their business in the hand of only one operator for the next 10 to 20 years. And this is where the real value of an ex ante regulator lies.

Sébastien Soriano

Chairman

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Monday 22 Feb

17h30 Business France Awards

Sébastien Soriano will deliver the Business France Award for the most innovative French Tech company in the category "Innovation telecom" to E-Blink

20h30 AT&T dinner & 4YFN Chairman's Reception

AT&T dinner hosted by Glenn Lurie, President and CEO of AT&T Mobility and Thaddeus Arroyo, CEO of AT&T Mexico

4YFN reception hosted by Yossi Vardi, 4YFN Chairman

Tuesday 23 Feb

9h00 ETNO

Meeting with Steven Tas, Chairman, and Lise Fuhr, Director-General

10h00 Facebook

Meeting with Kevin Martin, VP Public Policy Mobile & Global Access

11h00 BEREC-GSMA Regulatory roundtable

Session organized by the GSMA between BEREC members and high-level representatives from European telecoms operators

13h30 SIRADEL

Meeting with Pierre Gelpí, Director Customer Services

14h00 French pavilion at Mobile World Congress

Visit of the companies on the Business France pavilion

16h00 Internet of Things Panel Session - Ministerial Programme 2016

Panel discussion on "*Policy and regulation for growth of the IoT*"

17h30 Nokia Governmental Roundtable

Panel discussion on "*Opening the boundaries of smart cities everywhere*"

ARCEP, COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK ARCHITECT AND GUARDIAN

Internet, fixed and mobile telecom and postal networks constitute “**Infrastructures of freedom**”. Freedom of expression, freedom to communicate, freedom to access knowledge and to share it, but also freedom of enterprise and innovation, which are key to the country’s ability to compete on the global stage, to grow and provide jobs. Because it is essential to be able to enjoy these freedoms fully in any open, innovative and democratic society, national and European institutions work to ensure that these networks develop as a “**common good**,” regardless of their ownership structure, in other words that they meet high standards in terms of accessibility, universality, performance, neutrality, trustworthiness and fairness.

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

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

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

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

ABOUT ARCEP’S STRATEGIC REVIEW

Arcep’s strategic review was kicked off in June 2015 with the goal of identifying the newfound regulatory challenges and priorities. The aim was also to ask how digital technologies can help the regulator better meet its responsibilities, including in the postal sector, and possibly change the way it operates within a State - platform approach. The conclusions of this review, including a detailed roadmap and 21 thematic fact sheets, were presented on January 19th.

See [http://www.arcep.fr/index.php?id=8571&tx_gsactualite_pi1\[uid\]=1827&L=1](http://www.arcep.fr/index.php?id=8571&tx_gsactualite_pi1[uid]=1827&L=1) for more information