

---

*Press release*

## OPTICAL FIBRE

### **Review of the regulatory framework governing FttH networks in France: Arcep launches a public consultation**

Paris, 17 November 2025

The European Electronic Communications Code requires national regulatory authorities responsible for electronic communications to carry out an assessment of their symmetric regulatory framework for ultrafast internet access networks. To this end, Arcep is launching a public consultation on a draft assessment of the results achieved by France's regulatory framework for FttH networks, with respect to the goals being pursued at the European level. After examining the contributions to the public consultation, Arcep will notify this assessment to the European Commission, BEREC (Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications), and fellow NRAs in other EU Member States, in early 2026.

#### **Efficiency of investments in optical fibre, in support of regional digital development and ultrafast connectivity for the people of France**

Arcep concludes that, on the whole, with the implementation of the "*Plan France Très Haut Débit*" ultrafast broadband rollout scheme, the symmetric regulatory framework has contributed to efficient investment in the networks, making it possible to achieve the objectives set for electronic communications by the European Union. The scheme thus made it possible to develop connectivity through access to very high capacity networks, pro-consumer competition, and innovation.

By providing clarity and predictability to every stakeholder, the symmetric framework fostered substantial investments in FttH networks, in the cumulative amount of close 50 billion euros.

#### **Since 2009, France's so-called "symmetric" regulatory framework has defined the obligations that apply to every operator deploying fibre-to-the-home (FttH) networks**

The document begins with a summary of the contents and functioning of the symmetric regulatory framework governing FttH networks, crafted through decisions and recommendations that have been adopted since 2009<sup>1</sup>, starting with the obligation for every operator deploying an FttH network to grant all reasonable requests for access from third-party operators, along with the arrangements for this access. The draft assessment then details the provisions regarding the networks' architecture and deployment and, lastly, the pricing principles and rules implemented within the French framework. Arcep's assessment draws on a complete overview of the results achieved in wholesale and retail fixed ultrafast access markets, and on [a recent study from the consulting firm, Plum](#), on the effects of France's regulatory framework for optical fibre, which confirms a positive assessment.

#### **It will be vital to maintain the symmetric framework to meet future challenges**

If adjustments to the framework may be required to adapt to changes in the market, and to potential new issues surrounding the operation of FttH networks, the Authority believes it is vital for the symmetric framework to be fully maintained, to meet the four major future challenges it has identified for FttH networks:

- Promoting investment,
- Completing FttH deployment,
- Guaranteeing the networks are maintained in operational condition,
- Safeguarding fair and effective competition within the sector.

---

<sup>1</sup> Five decisions and nine recommendations, which can be accessed here: <https://www.arcep.fr/la-regulation/grands-dossiers-reseaux-fixes/la-fibre/le-cadre-relatif-a-la-regulation-du-ftth.html>

The foundations of the French model, whose very positive assessment has been confirmed, must therefore be preserved.

Contributions to the draft assessment published for public consultation must reach Arcep by 19 December 2025.

### Associated documents

- [The public consultation](#)
- [Study from consulting firm Plum assessing the symmetric regulatory framework.](#)

### 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 electronic communications, postal and press distribution networks in France.