



Margrethe Vestager
Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

Thierry Breton
Member of the European Commission

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Dear Mr Lohninger,

We thank you and the other co-signatory civil society organisations for your open letter in which you shared your views regarding the issue of 'fair contribution' to the costs of telecommunication networks by content and application providers.

Let us be clear on one fundamental point: the Commission has made a strong commitment to protecting a neutral and open internet where content, services, and applications are not unjustifiably blocked or degraded, in Europe as well as on the global stage. This is not only enshrined in the Open Internet Regulation, but it is also one of the fundamental principles we have included in the proposal for a 'European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade', which is expected to be signed still this year by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission. We should stress that neither the Council's nor the European Parliament's amendments to the Commission's proposal brought this principle into question.

As the reflections on the implementation of this principle are still ongoing, be assured that your views are carefully noted as are those of all interested parties to this discussion. The Commission is engaging in an open dialogue with all parties to safeguard the innovation and growth of the internet ecosystem for the benefit of the European economy and ultimately for all Europeans.

Mr Thomas Lohninger
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In this context, we should stress that achieving gigabit connectivity for everyone everywhere in Europe is a key element of Europe's digital transformation. The promotion of investment incentives for the roll-out of gigabit connectivity through the creation of a virtuous cycle that creates a mutually beneficial environment to players in the ecosystem is a prerequisite to delivering a better internet for everyone.

The Commission services are fully available to continue the discussion with you and with all the signatories

Yours sincerely,



Margrethe Vestager



Thierry Breton