

BEREC activities on environmental sustainability


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#empowering
EUconnectivity



First, what is BEREC?

 **BEREC** (*Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications*) is the decision-making body gathering national regulators of electronic communications in Europe. It is supported by the European Commission. Established in 2009.

Daily activities and studies are conducted by Working Groups co-chaired by two national representatives.



Context

- Since its strategy 2021-2025, BEREC has been committed to take its part in addressing sustainability challenges by **contributing to the implementation to ICT-related of the EU Green Deal and the Agenda 2030 targets.**
- In 2022, two documents allowed BEREC to assess ICT environmental footprint as well as NRAs possible role to limit the impact of the sector on the environment:
 - BEREC BoR (22) Report on Sustainability: *“Assessing BEREC’s contribution to limiting the impact of the digital sector on the environment”*
 - External Sustainability Study on Environmental impact of electronic communications (WIK/Ramboll)



ESTABLISHING A ROADMAP FOR TELECOM REGULATORS

BEREC published in 2022 its [first report](#) on sustainability “Assessing BEREC’s contribution limiting the impact of the digital sector on the environment”.

1

Data availability and accuracy and definition of common indicators for the telecom and ICT sector

2

Use of **existing regulatory tools** for sustainability purposes

3

Encouraging **environment-friendly and sober practices** of digital players in collaboration with other relevant bodies

4

Contributing to the **empowerment of end users** through information on ICT products (data driven regulation)



BEREC 2023 Pilot classification of sustainability indicators for ECN/ECS

Toolbox of 19 sustainability indicators with necessary information on current use of indicators across telecom regulators and first feedbacks from economic players as a basis for further reflections on this topic.

Group A: Energy consumption; Carbon emissions - Direct emissions - Energy indirect emissions- Other indirect emissions; Energy efficiency; Use of renewable energy (rate); Distribution or utilisation of recycled/refurbished/ reused products; Expected lifetime; Water usage/consumption; Raw materials depletion (mineral).
Group B: E-waste production; Recycled/refurbished/ reused components (also excavated masses) in products; Recyclability; Reparability; Land use; Waste heat recovery
Group C: Eco toxicity (including incidence on biodiversity, water pollution...); Human toxicity (including air pollution); Eutrophication (terrestrial, freshwater, marine)

✱ Findings used by JRC/DG Connect 2023 consultation and draft study on sustainability indicators.



BEREC REPORT ON SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS FOR ECN/ECS – Other key findings

1

Investing in environmental transparency tools

- **Sustainability indicators new drivers** of businesses, public organisations and consumers **decisions**.
- Significant **progress in EU regulation** to foster environmental transparency.
- Importance of **comparable and standardised** data on ECN/ECS
- Need of more **LCA/multi-criteria** assessment (eg. PEF/OEF)
- Call for **more data available** on environmental impacts from ICTs, especially telecom components.

2

Supporting efforts within the industry

- A lot of **efforts already accomplished within the industry**.
- Growing environmental reporting requirements : **coordination and harmonisation** will be key to rationalise efforts and foster transparency
- Using the opportunity that represents **new environmental reporting regulations** (i.e.. EU Taxonomy, CSRD).
- Remaining **technical challenges** to be addressed. Work and cooperation with SDOs is particularly highlighted.

3

Defining the role of national regulatory authorities

- Sustainability indicators could also be interesting for **NRAs set of activities**.
- Used to collect market data useful for environmental calculations.
- Expertise on telecom markets : role to play support **transparency**, standards/methodologies **harmonisation** and in terms of **monitoring**.
- First data collection at national level – Arcep (FR), Traficom (FI), BIPT (BE), CNMC (ES).
- A **clearer mandate** to collect environmental data on ECN/ECS would be a favourable development to examine.

Draft Report on End-Users Empowerment through Environmental Transparency on Digital Products – Key findings

Environmental transparency on ICT footprint and data-driven regulation

- Environmental transparency on ICT goods and services' environmental footprint as part of “data driven regulation”
 - i.e. with clear information, end-users can integrate the environmental criteria in their consumption choice. Complementary to traditional tools of regulators, this approach creates positive incentives for most sustainable products through information. (Source: BEREC Strategy 2021-2025 and previous BEREC reports)
- Different tools: **labelling scheme, scoring mechanism, comparability tools.**
- Challenges: **profusion of schemes, readability, reliability, harmonisation of practices.**
- **EU regulation and initiatives** : Green Claims, Energy Labelling Regulation, EU digital passport...

Informing about environmental rights to empower end-users

Environmental transparency to inform end-users about their **environmental rights as consumers.**

- Examples: guaranteed conformity, right to repair, protection against unfair commercial practices

Facilitate implementation of new EU regulations that harmonise the realms of consumer protection and environmental compliance.

Specially relevant in the context of **circular economy targets.**

- Examples: right to repair, regulation on ecodesign of sustainable products...

Draft Report on End-Users Empowerment through Environmental Transparency on Digital Products – Preliminary findings

Transparency to promote sustainable digital services and devices

- Digital services life cycle has an impact on infrastructures and devices footprint.
- **Challenges:** immateriality, obsolescence practices, attention economy.
 - ➔ Existing work of the European Commission (recent study: “*Assessment of the energy footprint of digital actions and services*” and upcoming campaign).
- Devices constitute the major part of the environmental footprint of digital technologies (60-80% of ICT GHG emissions).
- **Information delivered to end-users** can enable to promoting **sustainable consumption choices to extend the durability of their devices.**

Role of regulators and stakeholders

Publications (including data, surveys & reports)	Public Campaigns	Best Practices/Info on Website
Arcep, NMHH, NKOM, RAK, SPRK, RTR	NKOM, RTR	Arcep, NMHH, Traficom, RTR

There exist many **initiatives** from national authorities, industry players, consumer and environmental associations.

Importance of a multi-stakeholder approach for science-based and actionable tools.

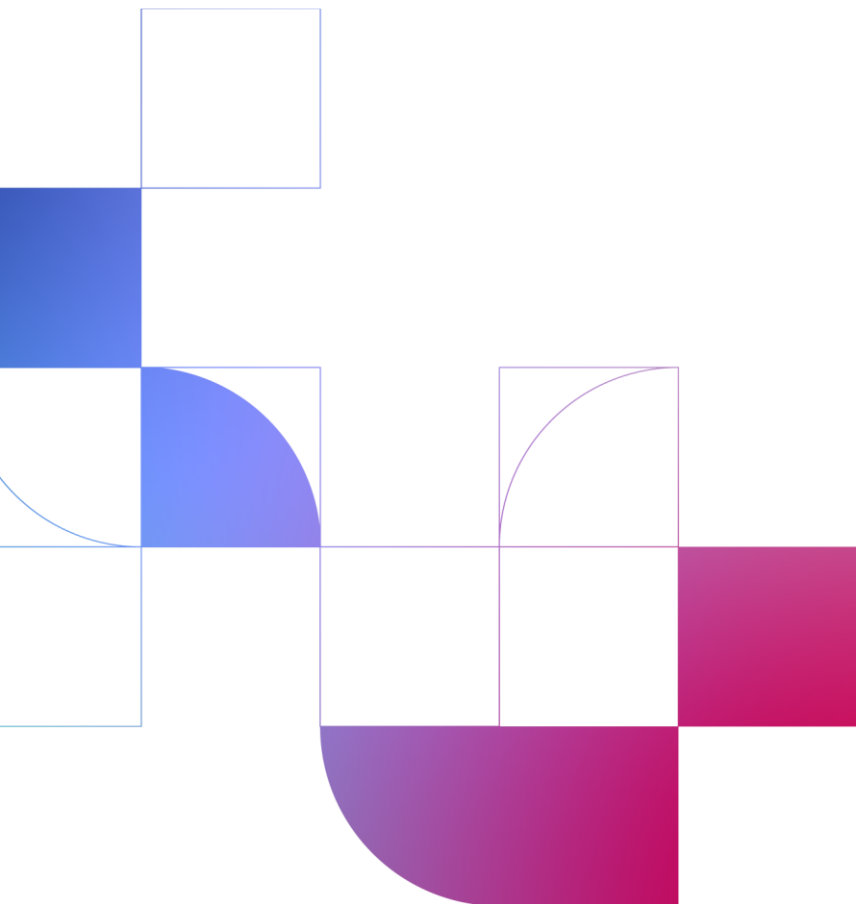
A role for telecom regulators (with OCAs and third parties) especially where ECN/ECS are concerned. Also experience in reaching and protecting users.

Draft Report on End-Users Empowerment through
Environmental Transparency on Digital Products
Public Consultation



Deadline on 16th February 2024

Contributions are very much welcomed!



Questions?

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