

## EDRi comments to draft report on European gigabit society and 5G

European Digital Rights (EDRi) is an association of [civil and human rights organisations](#) from across Europe. We defend rights and freedoms in the digital environment. We would like to take this opportunity to provide constructive input to the **draft report on internet connectivity for growth, competitiveness and cohesion: European gigabit society and 5G**.<sup>1</sup>

In order to reflect the full legal framework under which the gigabit society and the deployment of 5G will be developed, we suggest the following amendments:

- Amendment 1: "- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights"
- Amendment 2: "- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2015/2120 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 laying down measures concerning open internet access and amending Directive 2002/22/EC on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services and Regulation (EU) No 531/2012 on roaming on public mobile communications networks within the Union"
- Amendment 3: "- having regard to the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)"
- Amendment 4: "- having regard to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the respect for private life and the protection of personal data in electronic communications and repealing Directive 2002/58/EC (Regulation on Privacy and Electronic Communications)"

In order to ensure the development of the European gigabit society and deployment of 5G take into account the openness of the internet, we suggest the following amendments:

- Amendment 5: (new) F. whereas the internet has developed over the past decades as an open platform for innovation, with low access barriers for end-users, providers of content, applications and services and providers of internet access services;
- Amendment 6: (new) G. whereas the internet's open character has been a key driver of competitiveness, economic growth, innovation and social development, including support for freedom of expression, access to information and media pluralism;
- Amendment 7: (new) 16a Emphasises that it remains a policy priority that the internet continues to be an open platform with low barriers of entry for all providers of online services, thereby supporting citizens' fundamental rights to

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bCOMPARL%2bPE-597.728%2b02%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN>



24 February 2017

freedom of expression, privacy and access to information, and supporting its increasingly important role in upholding media pluralism, recognising the crucial role of Regulation 2015/2120 in achieving these critical objectives.