



PRESS RELEASE

Digital Networks Act: ELFA urges EU to safeguard competition and fibre investments

Brussels, 29 January 2026 – Today, the European Local Fibre Alliance (ELFA), the European voice of local fibre operators, convened a policy event in Brussels with representatives from the European Commission and regulatory bodies to exchange views on the draft Digital Networks Act (DNA) and the future of the European telecommunications sector. At the event, ELFA called for rules that strengthen competition, resilience and sustainable investment in Europe's digital infrastructures.

Setting the stage for the exchange, the Alliance, representing roughly 900 European fibre network operators, welcomed the European Commission's draft Digital Networks Act as an important step forward.

ELFA underlined that Europe's digital infrastructure policy should prioritise long-term, sustainable competition by supporting a diverse ecosystem of actors – including publicly owned, regional and locally anchored fibre networks – rather than attempting to engineer cross-border consolidation in fixed infrastructure markets. A diverse ecosystem of independent fibre operators helps to avoid over-dependence on a limited number of national incumbents, thus improving resilience, redundancy, and connectivity.

Contrary to the current draft, ELFA called for the DNA to be adopted as a directive, not a regulation, to preserve flexibility for national implementation in a highly diverse market landscape and to avoid destabilising well-functioning national models.

On wholesale access regulation, ELFA commended the Commission for its proposal to maintain the existing ex-ante approach and underlined that the current market situation in several Member States, still dominated by the significant market power of the incumbents, does not yet allow for a general shift towards ex-post regulation in those countries. ELFA emphasised that such transition must be handled with precaution to avoid re-monopolisation risks and to preserve the competitive conditions needed for efficient fibre deployment.

Regarding the transition from legacy copper networks to future-proof fibre networks, ELFA supported the fact that the draft DNA aims to set a clear, rule-based and non-discriminatory framework.



ELFA also welcomed the Commission's push for an accelerated migration to fibre, while urging that the DNA prevents distortions of competition and avoids transferring significant market power from legacy copper to fibre networks.

On spectrum policy, ELFA highlighted the strategic role of next-generation Wi-Fi for end-user performance in fibre-based connectivity and asked the EU to reserve spectrum within the upper 6 GHz band for license-exempt Wi-Fi, rather than sharing it with 5G/6G.

ELFA also welcomed the EU's ambition for a sustainable digital transition and called for the EU Taxonomy to explicitly recognise fibre network deployment as a sustainable investment – paired with streamlined compliance requirements in line with the digital omnibus objective of reducing bureaucratic reporting burdens.

ELFA called for a competitive, open and transparent wholesale environment for both fixed and mobile networks and for stronger safeguards against anti-competitive practices such as strategic overbuild.

About ELFA:

The European Local Fibre Alliance (ELFA) represents alternative public and private local fibre operators.

- Our vision is to create sustainable fibre-based infrastructures in both urban and rural areas across Europe.
- Members are committed to the use of these infrastructures for the economic and social development of communities, benefiting European citizens and businesses.

More information: www.e-lfa.eu

