Riga 2019: Competing Continents

Date: 25th - 26th June 2019
Location: Riga, Latvia

Agenda: Tuesday 25th June 2019

08:45: Registration and Welcome

08.45  Registration

09.30  Welcomes and opening ceremony
Setting the scene – Europe’s progress with, and aspirations for, electronic communications

10:15: Session 1: Competing Continents- the Pursuit of Excellence in Electronic Communications

Regulators from all across the world face common challenges: New technologies, the need of connectivity, or to maintain an open internet. Yet there are different approaches to tackle them. Now is the time to gather in Riga, Latvia and share the know-how to strengthen the telecoms market globally.

Chair: Philippe Defraigne, Director, Cullen International

Keynote: Dr Roberto Viola, Director General, DG Connect, European Commission

Speakers:
Reinald Krüger, Public Policy Development Director, Vodafone
Nicholas Degani, Senior Counsel, Federal Communications Commission
Dr Wen-Chung Guo, Commissioner, National Communications Commission, Taiwan
Sverre Holt-Francati, Senior Vice President, Group Public and Regulatory Affairs, Telenor

11:30 Break

12:00: Session 2: Investment and Connectivity
The world we are living in needs connectivity in very high capacity networks. Fibre, fixed wireless access or mobile? The percentage of coverage, the willingness to invest and the consumer’s demand for access to very high capacity networks vary across the different countries drastically. Is there a universal way to boost supply and demand regarding connectivity?

Chair:  
Philippe Defraigne, Director, Cullen

Speakers:  
Harald Gruber, Head of Digital Infrastructure Division, Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank  
Erzsébet Fitori, Director General, FTTH Council Europe  
Ian Scott, Chairperson and CEO, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)  
Yulia Kossykh, Manager, Frontier Economics  
Alexia Lee González Fanfalone, Economist/ Telecommunication Policy Analyst, Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

13:15 Lunch

14:15: Session 3: 5G- Living up to its Promise

5G is being seen as the game changer in telecommunications and business. Yet, we don’t really know what business models and applications it can bring. Is 5G’s reputation justified?

Chair:  
Tony Shortall, Director, Telage

Speakers:  
Ulf Pehrsson, Vice President and Head of Government & Industry Relations, Ericsson  
Mike Corkerry, Vice President, EMEA External & Regulatory Affairs, AT&T  
Professor William Webb, Consultant, Webb Search Consultancy  
Johannes Gungl, CEO, Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR)  
Carlos Rodríguez Cocina, Director European Regulatory Affairs; Head of Brussels Office, Telefónica

15:30 Break

16:00: Session 4: Open Internet: Different Approaches, Different Outcomes?

How do different markets keep the internet open? How do the different approaches work out? Is there a way to safeguard the entire value chain regarding apps, developers and stores?

Chair:  
Tony Shortall, Director, Telage

Keynote:  
Professor Barbara van Schewick, Professor of Law and Helen L. Crocker Faculty Scholar at Stanford Law School; Director of Stanford Law School’s Center for Internet and Society

Speakers:  
John Blakemore, Director of European Regulatory Affairs, C K Hutchison  
Emmanuel Gabla, Membre du Collège, Autorite de Regulation des Communications Electroniques et
Agenda: Wednesday 26th June 2019

08:45: Registration

09:15: Session 5: Technology- How to Enhance Electronic Communications With AI, Data Analytics, Blockchain

Data analytics, cognitive technologies and the use of algorithms have an impact on all industries and businesses. Individual decisions are impacted by these algorithms. How can such technologies enhance electronic communications?

Chair: Ann LaFrance, Coordinating Partner, EMEA Communications Law; Co-Chair, Global Data Privacy & Cybersecurity; Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP; Vice President, International Institute of Communications

Speakers:
- Dr Roberto Balmer, Adjunct Professor, USI University of Italian-speaking Switzerland; CEO, ABCgate Advisory Services Ltd
- Dr Hui Cao, Head of Strategy and Policy, EU Public Affairs & Communication Office, Huawei Technologies
- Dr Stanford Levin, Emeritus Professor Economics, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, USA
- Dr Stephen Unger, Senior Advisor, Flint Global, UK; Director, International Institute of Communications
- Florian Damas, Policy and Regulatory Affairs Director, Government Relations, Nokia

10:45: Session 6: Platform Regulation- Can We Reach a Level Playing Field?

Platforms and apps are disrupting network industries. Digital platforms as intermediaries for multisided markets challenge the existing regulatory framework. Should they be subject to the same regulatory obligations as traditional network operators? Is existing regulation effective and sufficient? What toolbox is necessary for regulators to deal with the complex problems and allow regulators to address competition problems while not hampering innovation?

Chair: Ann LaFrance, Coordinating Partner, EMEA Communications Law; Co-Chair, Global Data Privacy & Cybersecurity; Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP; Vice President, International Institute of Communications
Speakers:
Dr Werner Stengg, Head of Unit “E-Commerce and Online Platforms”, DG CONNECT, European Commission
Henk Don, Member of the Board, Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM), The Netherlands
Dan Sjöblom, Director General, Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS)
Johan Keetelaar, Director Public Policy, Facebook
Susan Ness, Distinguished Fellow, German Marshall Fund-US and Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania

12.00 Closing ceremony

12.30 Close of conference