



Press release

Bonn, 5 October 2021

Page 1 of 2

IIC Regulators' Forum 2021

Dr Wilhelm Eschweiler: "International dialogue supports national regulatory strategies"

The Bundesnetzagentur, together with the International Institute of Communications (IIC), hosted this year's International Regulators' Forum on 4 and 5 October.

"Regulatory authorities across the world are facing the same challenges. International dialogue supports the development of regulatory concepts based on tried and tested principles. Competition gives users the widest possible choice of digital services and promoting connectivity ensures inclusion and fast internet connections for all," said Dr Wilhelm Eschweiler, Bundesnetzagentur Vice President.

Representatives of regulatory authorities from across the globe took part in the digital event by livestream and contributed to the discussions.

The event focused primarily on broadband networks and ensuring connectivity. Network security, in particular in light of the technological developments in the mobile networks towards 6G and Open RAN, was also a topic of discussion. Other issues included the treatment of digital platforms and the opportunities and risks posed by artificial intelligence, for which Europe is so far the only region to develop a future legal framework.

The International Regulators' Forum traditionally kicks off the annual IIC Communications Policy and Regulation Week. The Bundesnetzagentur sought to share information with international partners on current and upcoming opportunities in the telecommunications markets and their regulation in various fields and has turned its regulatory focus to the future, in particular as regards artificial intelligence and digital platforms.

Bundesnetzagentur
Tulpenfeld 4
53113 Bonn

[bundesnetzagentur.de](https://www.bundesnetzagentur.de)
twitter.com/bnetza

Press contact person
Fiete Wulff
Head of Press and Public
Relations

Tel. +49 228 14 - 9921
pressestelle@bnetza.de



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Page 2 of 2

The IIC is an organisation including regulators in the field of electronic communications from all continents. It offers a platform for the exchange of information about regulatory practices between regulators from different global regions. The Bundesnetzagentur has been a member since 2021.

The Bundesnetzagentur is an authority under the responsibility of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. Its core tasks include supervising the energy, telecommunications, postal and railway markets.

As part of its mandate, the Bundesnetzagentur ensures that as many undertakings as possible can use the infrastructure in these sectors so that consumers benefit from competition and favourable prices.

The authority employs over 2,900 people at its headquarters in Bonn and Mainz and its 46 regional offices.