

## **Europacable supports the European Commission's target to make Gigabit connectivity available across the EU by 2030 through the Gigabit Infrastructure Act and Gigabit connectivity recommendation**

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Europacable, the voice of Europe's wire and cable industry, calls on EU co-legislators and BEREC to support the Gigabit Infrastructure Act and Gigabit connectivity recommendation. The objective should be to ensure a viable infrastructure based competition, a fast deployment of reliable and energy efficient Very High Capacity Networks (VHCN).

### **The Gigabit Infrastructure Act (GIA)**

Europacable welcomes the Commission's proposal and notably the change to a Regulation to facilitate uniform implementation. Specifically, Europacable supports:

- **The increased scope** including non-operators, buildings owned by public authorities and street furniture as per Articles 2(2) and 3. It is crucial to encompass all entities able to provide infrastructure relevant for deploying VHCNs.
- **The simplified permitting procedures, increased transparency requirements on existing infrastructure and planned civil works, obligating publicly financed civil works to meet requests for coordination, tacit approval procedures for permitting, the single national digital entry point and improved dispute settlement mechanisms** through Articles 4, 5, 6 and 7.
- **The Requirements for in-building physical infrastructure** as in Articles 8 and 9. Europacable welcomes that, in coordination with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, new and renovated buildings should be equipped with fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure speeding-up network rollout.

### **The Gigabit connectivity recommendation (GCR)**

Europacable support the Commission's recommendation and fast migration of the network. In particular, Europacable welcomes:

- **Infrastructure-based competition** allowing the deployment of a fast and ubiquitous network, based on high-quality products and efficient supply chains creating a future-proof and scalable infrastructure as per point 20 of the GCR. Infrastructure-based competition will drive investments and innovation as long as it is accompanied by sufficient safeguards to preserve competition.
- **Under 5 years migration to reach 2030 Digital targets.** To migrate VHCNs and decommission the legacy network, alleviating rules on SMP<sup>1</sup> operators, when an effective VHCN is accessible and without compromising competition, would incentivise users and access seekers to migrate before network' switch off.

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<sup>1</sup> Significant Market Power a defined by the European Electronic Communications Code (EU) 2018/1972