

Connectivity stakeholders call for recognition of Wi-Fi in the new EU mandate

The new institutional cycle in which the EU is embarking will play a key role in achieving the bloc's objectives in terms of connectivity.

2030, the deadline to reach the EU's digital decade targets, is around the corner. **Therefore, the upcoming initiatives in the area of telecommunications and connectivity will be the last real chance to push Europe towards the targets** it set out for itself in [December 2022](#)¹ of a **continent fully connected with Gigabit speed**.

We call on all MEPs, Member States and the European Commission to support Wi-Fi as a fundamental technology for Europe's connectivity mix (alongside fiber, satellite, and 5G). Indeed, the principle of technology neutrality can be guaranteed only if the EU will allow the best mix of connectivity technology to develop.

Each day, **hundreds of millions of EU citizens rely on Wi-Fi** to connect billions of essential devices. They use Wi-Fi because it provides **affordable, sustainable, reliable and secure communications**. Same goes for **businesses that increasingly rely on the Internet of Things**, connected cities, and smart logistics technologies. Yet, despite its role as a ubiquitous and essential technology, Wi-Fi is often taken for granted when policy decisions are made.

Recognition of Wi-Fi cannot wait any longer if Europe is to compete on the global scale and unleash the full potential of the digital transition. This means, first and foremost, making sure that sufficient spectrum (which is a finite and scarce resource), including the upper 6GHz band, is made available for licence-exempt use². This allocation will allow the latest generations of Wi-Fi technologies (6E, 7, and the future generations of Wi-Fi to deliver maximum benefits to Europeans, while preserving incumbent operations in the 6GHz band.

With this context in mind, we, **companies and organisations representing fiber, utilities, consumer electronics, extended reality, internet service providers** and more, came together to identify the five themes that EU policymakers should prioritize in legislating the connectivity policy.

¹ These include 100% Gigabit connectivity coverage and 100% fiber to the premises coverage. Source: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/europes-digital-decade-digital-targets-2030_en#the-path-to-the-digital-decade

² Radio spectrum allocated for unlicensed use is open for the public to use for a number of technologies such as Bluetooth, industrial and medical communications, short-range wireless, and of course Wi-Fi. On the other hand, spectrum resources that are allocated to international mobile telecommunications (IMT) need to be auctioned to operators.

Wi-Fi matters to our respective fields.

Consumers benefits

The end user should be top of mind across all telecoms policies, as adoption of digital technologies by end-users will ultimately determine the success and economic impact of the EU Digital Transition.

The combination of **fiber and Wi-Fi is the connectivity option of choice** for consumers because it is **affordable, green** and delivers **unmatched performance**. Wi-Fi is broadcasting fiber connectivity on the last meters to the consumer and thus helps to promote FttH uptake in the EU. This makes the roll out more efficient. More performant Wi-Fi will also help in reducing network roll-out costs and promoting the uptake of FttH in the EU.

Sustainability

The green and digital transition should remain an important concern for the next **European institutional cycle**, which **should prioritise energy efficient technologies that are easy and quick to deploy, such as Wi-Fi**.

EU citizens care more and more about the sustainability of their choices, not least when it comes to connectivity. The upcoming telecoms legislation should **empower sustainable connectivity choices**. **The combination of fiber and Wi-Fi is that choice**: it can deliver connectivity with **less than half carbon footprint of cellular** connectivity. This difference will only increase with energy efficiency requirements for buildings.

Competitiveness

Competitiveness is intrinsically linked to connectivity. **Smart, innovative industry** can and will push the European economy forward, **but only with Wi-Fi that can deliver optimal performance**. The proof is in the numbers: as of 2023, **94% of EU enterprises** relied on fixed broadband access. Wi-Fi provides choices to businesses, while empowering SME Internet Service Providers to contribute to addressing the digital divide.

Wi-Fi is the technology that, when **fully enabled with sufficient spectrum**, can provide to industry the **gigabit connectivity** it needs to advance into the digital age. **Internet of Things, extended reality, and connected wearables** all need optimal Wi-Fi connectivity to properly support the European industry.

Innovation

Devices enabled to support **next generation Wi-Fi** (on 6GHz frequencies) will support advanced, **immersive applications** including but not limited to XR gaming, HD/3D video and connected wearables.

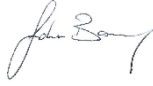
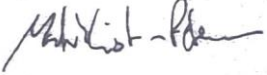
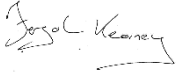



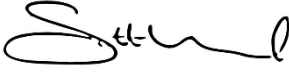





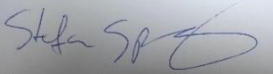
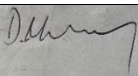
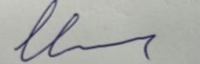
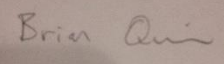
Wi-Fi technology **empowers the flourishing ecosystem of European innovators** developing Wi-Fi-based products that provide solutions to today's challenges and come up with the **discoveries of tomorrow**.


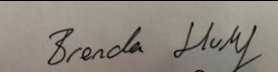


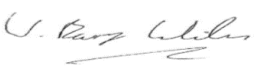
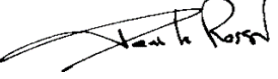
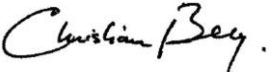






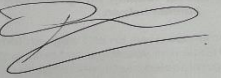
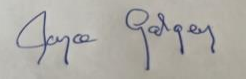
International cooperation

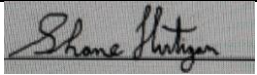



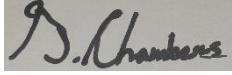
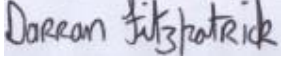


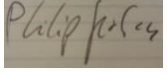

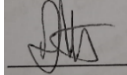
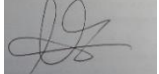

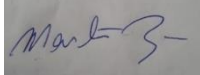
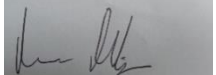
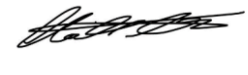
In an increasingly challenging world, we call for proactive EU **telecommunications policy that maximizes connectivity, sustainability and technological advancement**.

Isolating the EU from its main international partners will not bring the results some are expecting. Instead, **proactively engaging with wider European fora and UN organisations** that are paving the way forward on telecoms regulation will allow the EU to **fully leverage its central role in international affairs**.

List of signatories (in alphabetical order)

Airwave Internet John Barry CEO	
Airwire Ltd. Martin List-Petersen CTO	
Aptus Ltd. Fergal Kearney CTO	
AVM Dr Gerd Thiedemann Vice President Products	
Azotel John O'Hare CEO	
BBNet Stephen Hall COO	
Bluebox Broadband Scott McClelland Managing Director	
Broadband for our Community (B40C) Jim O'Brien Project Manager	
Bundesverband Breitbandkommunikation e.V. / German Broadband Association (BREKO) Sven Knapp Head of Berlin Office	
Bundesverband Glasfaseranschluss e. V. (BUGLAS) Wolfgang Heer Managing Director	
Cambium Networks Ltd. Nigel King CTO	
Celtic Broadband Jay Perry CEO	
Chirpy Software SRL Stefan Sperling Director	
Clearwave Deaglan Moloney Managing Director	
Conway.tv Broadband Chris Conway Director	
Croagh Patrick Broadband Brian Quinn Director	

Deutsche Glasfaser Andreas Pfisterer <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	
Digital Forge Brendan Hurley <i>Owner Manager</i>	
Dynamic Spectrum Alliance (DSA) Martha Suarez <i>President</i>	
East Cork Broadband Malcolm Stead <i>Managing Director</i>	
Eurona.ie Barry Wilson <i>Managing Director</i>	
European Consumer Electronics Retail Council (EuCER) Davide Rossi <i>Secretary General</i>	
European Local Fibre Alliance (ELFA) Christian Vonger Berg <i>ELFA Chairperson</i>	
EWE TEL Jens Knobloch <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	
Fibre Alliance Denmark Thomas Herland Askvold Woldiderich <i>Director</i>	
FMS Internetservice GmbH Patrik Schaub <i>CEO</i>	
FTTH Council Europe Vincent Garnier <i>Director General</i>	
Genexis Group AB Gerlas van den Hoven <i>CEO</i>	
Grifonline Srl. Lorenzo Buzzati <i>Managing Director</i>	
High5! Mischa Peters <i>Managing Director</i>	
HighSpeed Joyce Galgey <i>Managing Director</i>	

Integrated Media Services Shane Hartigan CEO	
Irish Wireless Ltd. Gurmukh Neote CEO	
Ivertec Ltd. Jimmy Sugrue Managing Director	
Kerry Broadband Paul Dolan Kerry CEO	
Lightnet Broadband Des Chambers CTO	
Link Broadband Darran Fitzpatrick Director	
Mayo Fibre Atlantek Computers Alan McGrath Managing Director	
Munster Wireless Ltd. Bill Fitzgerald Owner	
Netzkommune GmbH Philip Jocks Director	
Net1 John Gartlan CTO	
OneContact Ltd. Fergus Keating Director	
OpenBSD Amsterdam Alexandra Peters Director	
Open SME Internet CLG. Michael Cotter Director	
Orion Communications Ltd. Martin Ryan Director	
PMIT Solutions Ltd. Darren Philips Managing Director	
Premier Broadband /Alphawave Niall Clancy Managing Director	

<p>RapidBroadband Micheal Twomey Managing Director</p>	
<p>RealBroadband Denise Diggin Co-Founder</p>	
<p>SCC Broadband Ltd. Peter Sweeny Director</p>	
<p>TIBUS Andrew Maybin Managing Director</p>	<p>A. Maybin</p>
<p>Titania Matthew Ciantar Director</p>	
<p>Total Wireless Andy Greene</p>	
<p>Warian Orla McGann Project Manager</p>	
<p>Web World Dave Geoghegan Managing Director</p>	
<p>Whizzy Internet James O Sullivan Director</p>	
<p>Wi-Fi Alliance Alex Roytblat Vice President of Regulatory Affairs</p>	
<p>wilhelm.tel GmbH Arne Mietzner Managing Director</p>	
<p>Wireless Connect Ltd. Tom Smyth CEO</p>	



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