

BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR POSTAL SERVICES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

The BIPT clarifies how operators can request access of another operator's drop cable

Brussels – August 8, 2023. Today the BIPT publishes a communication directed at the telecom operators wishing to request access to another operator's drop cable at the end-user's. For, it is laid down by law that an operator can submit a concrete request to that effect with the BIPT. In the communication the BIPT describes the principles it will take into account for such requests. The aim is to create transparency for the possible applicants of access to further boost the roll-out of the Belgian telecom networks.

The cable entering the end-customer's home and connecting the latter to the operator's fixed telecom network (i.e. the drop cable) is often the hardest element to install. By law, operators rolling out a new telecom network to the end-users can request access to other operators' drop cables. This allows those operators to reuse existing drop cables without having to carry out additional works to roll out an extra cable and thus to connect the end-user to their own networks more easily.

Although the BIPT has not yet received such concrete requests from the operators, the current fibre roll-out and the roll-out plans announced by operators for the future may result in such requests: the reusing of existing drop cables may for instance facilitate the roll-out of extra fibre networks in apartment buildings. That is why the BIPT wishes to define a clear framework describing the basic principles it will apply when processing concrete access requests.

The communication particularly aims to increase transparency regarding this access possibility in order for an operator to be able to assess whether he would want to seize this opportunity to access the drop cable of another operator on a sufficiently informed basis. This way the BIPT wishes to further encourage the roll-out of the Belgian telecom networks and in the end to improve competition on the telecom market in a sustainable manner.

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