The EU’s place in an online-driven world

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Jean-Jacques Sahel
Evolution of the Internet

Mobile + Desktop Internet

Mainframe
- 1M
- 10M
- 100M

Minicomputer
- 1M
- 10M
- 100M

PC

Mobile Consumer / Citizen
- 10B

software

hardware

Source: Mary Meeker, Goldman Sachs, 2009
ICT-driven Innovation: 40% productivity growth in EU and can continue to drive demand, productivity and economic growth in time of economic crisis.

Source: OECD Ministerial Conference on the Future of the Internet, June 2008
Need to maintain a high standard of regulation, but lower the burden of regulation

... and improve its relevance and efficiency, with a bias towards innovation and a focus on fundamental consumer protection and competition principles.
Regulation fostering innovation (2/2)

Working towards introducing a single market (mutual recognition) for electronic communications:
500 million European consumers of telecoms are still divided into 27 markets - either blocks or kills a start-up
Need to work towards achieving a real Single Market for electronic communications services

Working towards the Internal Market through the Commission and ‘BEREC’:
enabling cross-border / pan-European innovation, involving all stakeholders in policy process, and with innovation front of mind
Across all areas, from spectrum to numbering to competition
Regulation protecting innovation (1/2):

*Importance of Open Internet*

NGNs will only be adopted if citizens find (and can access) what they want on the Net

Google, eBay, Facebook, Skype, Wikipedia and other world changers wouldn’t be there if their founders had needed a permission to exist

Today, we see routine and widespread discrimination against Internet services and apps in Europe

Not about profits and losses of a corporation but about EU’s global competitiveness, thriving innovation scene, full participation in the Information Society and overall economic growth of the region in the long run.
Regulation protecting innovation (2/2):

Protecting innovators and individual & business users against arbitrary blocking and degradation of access to content and services

Need to enable and reinforce the competitiveness of the industry
- Genuine competition across the whole ICT value chain is necessary
- Blocking and degradation of web 3.0 / applications by network operators has to be prevented – and competition law and transparency will not be sufficient

The EC Framework and its implementation into national law should:
- uphold clearly the principle that end-users can access the services and applications of their choice on the Internet,
- with no loophole legitimising arbitrary restrictions by operators
- with NRAs and the Commission having a duty, willingness and powers to prevent abuse
This virtuous cycle of innovation, demand and return on investment has delivered much – and should be preserved
(diagram from UK Cabinet Office, Office of the e-Envoy)
In short, let’s enable the future, not delay it:

Develop user- and innovation-centric regulation for the whole of the EU, achieving the Single Market for communications.

Focus on what users really want, and let them access and do what they want.

*don’t let old ways of thinking & antiquated business models stifle innovation*
Thank you!