



Pasaules informācijas sabiedrības samits „WSIS+10 High-Level Event”

2014. gada 11.-13. Jūnijs, Ženēva

Regulatoru samītā pārstāv Regulatora padomes priekšsēdētāja padomnieks, prof. Edvins Karnītis



Mr. Chairman!

Excellences!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Geneva phase of the World Summit announced knowledge-based, people-centred model of the information society, which is directed to sustainable development and improvement of the quality of life for everyone. ICTs were regarded as a very powerful tool for the implementation of such model.

Today we see that the model is globally accepted; ministries, which are responsible for future planning and science, innovation and high tech, digital economy and public administration are involved in the implementation process. The accent is on usage of ICTs for education, health, business, etc. instead of approach that was quite popular in the Geneva 2003 summit – information society means computer and mobile as a final goal. This is a huge qualitative step ahead.

Wide representation of national telecommunications regulators among speakers here is another positive signal. Broadband and new generation networks form the kernel of the needed ICT tool; there is a strong correlation between broadband indicators and various information society parameters. Balancing respective interests of operators, consumers and government is a function of independent regulators. Moreover, competence of the regulators is helpful to the governments for creation of favourable normative environment.

Let us highlight some key regulatory aspects that support and catalyse perfection of the ICT tool and thus the overall information society development.

1. Combination of regulatory tools.

Huge investments are necessary for rollout of new generation networks. To provide an incentive to the business a temporary *regulatory holidays* is a contributory instrument, but it has to be applied in combination with definite rollout obligations and price regulation.

2. Resource assignment.

Next generation wireless broadband networks require lot of electromagnetic spectrum. Timely and optimum assignment of all spectrum bands, which are allocated for wireless broadband networks, control of their efficient usage are indispensable preconditions for broadband rollout.

3. Balanced tariff policy.

A huge gap exists between broadband coverage and its take-up indicators. Regulatory pressing on tariffs to reduce this gap should be balanced with necessity of return on investments in the infrastructure.

4. Consumers' protection.

The universal service concept remains a real regulatory instrument to support general availability and affordability of information society services.

5. Quality issues.

Regular and comprehensive control of broadband quality parameters as well honest explanation of objective advantages and disadvantages of wire and wireless technologies will increase consumers' trust. Quality issues currently are additionally complicated by development of the net neutrality ideology.

We definitely are on the right way; nevertheless it is only the very beginning of the way. Till the +20 event the next step has to be done. We will have to show real increase of health care and life time, of education and innovation level, of quality of life that was achieved thanks to ICTs. Lot of work remain for all of us.

Thank you for your attention!