



Brussels, 23. 12. 2013
REGIO G1/MP/jh (2013)

Dear Mr de Rosen,

On 3 December last, you contacted Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Policy, expressing your concerns about the ongoing eligibility of satellite broadband user equipment during the next financial period asking to inform the DG REGIO Geographical Units presently negotiating with national and regional authorities about the eligibility of Satellite Broadband.

1) I confirm that eligibility of satellite broadband is not put in question in the current draft regulations, as adopted by the EP plenary session on 20 November 2013:

- Article 3 (Scope of support) of the European Regional Development Fund Regulation foresees that ERDF shall support i.e. : "investments in infrastructure providing basic services to citizens in the areas of energy, environment, transport, and information and communication technologies (ICT)";
- Article 5 of the ERDF Regulation lists among its investment priorities "enhancing access to and use and quality of ICT through: (a) extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy"
- Article 21 of the Rural Development Regulation concerning "Basic services and village renewal in rural areas" foresees that the EAFRD shall finance "broadband infrastructure, including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and provision of access to broadband..."

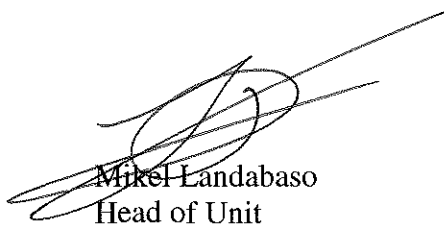
2) As to the statement that "the assessment indicator for ICT infrastructure of at least 30 Mbps results in the unfortunate situation that national and regional administrations believe that technologies such as satellite [...] are not eligible":

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It is true that the current ERDF Regulation proposal foresees as a common output indicator for ERDF support under the Investment for growth and jobs goal: "ICT Infrastructure / Households/ Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps".

Since BB access of at least 30 Mbps for all is a priority of the Digital Agenda for Europe, this does not prevent ERDF from supporting broadband roll out below 30 Mbps if the predictable path towards such target speed by 2020 is confirmed.

Each Member State, Region will define its own priorities through Operational Programmes and we recommend that all tenders and calls for projects be technology neutral – i.e. seeking the best/only technological solutions to achieve internet connectivity according to the local context, including through demand stimulation measures.



Mikel Landabaso
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