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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Vestager
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.3.2021)

The Commission encourages Member States to include in their Recovery and Resilience Plans investments and reforms aimed, among others, at the fast rollout of very high capacity networks, including fibre and 5G, in line with the flagship Connect, while preserving the functioning of the Single Market and ensuring effective competition.

When structuring their Recovery and Resilience Plans, Member States should ensure that the measures will be implemented in accordance with all applicable rules, including State aid and public procurement rules¹, irrespective of final beneficiary of the measure, be it publicly or privately owned². These rules play a key role in safeguarding the level playing field, including as regards the deployment of electronic communications infrastructure, and ensure that public funding does not distort competition or crowd out private investments. In this respect, the Commission stands ready to assist Member States in the design of their plans in line with State aid rules³.

In parallel to the monitoring of the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the Commission will continue its vigorous enforcement of the existing EU rules, including the antitrust and merger rules, where applicable, to ensure effective competition in telecoms market to the benefit of businesses and consumers.

¹ Guidance to the Member States on the Recovery and Resilience Plans published on 17 September 2020 and revised version released on 22 January 2021

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/3_en_document_travail_service_part1_v3_en_0.pdf and https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/document_travail_service_part1_v2_en.pdf

² For investments in digital capacities and connectivity, the Recovery and Resilience Plans shall also set out a security self-assessment based on common objective criteria identifying any security issues, and detailing how those issues will be addressed in order to comply with the relevant national and Union laws.

³ See

https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/template_RFF_broadband_roll_out_and_demand_side_measures.pdf