

**Question for written answer E-005267/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Expansion of telecommunications networks

Assuming that network operators can expand telecommunications networks with very high capacity, known as next generation access networks, more quickly if additional funds are generated, the following questions arise:

1. Can the existing European legal framework oblige content and application providers, especially those whose data-intensive business models (e.g. video streaming) push the network to its capacity bottlenecks, to make a financial contribution to the expansion?
2. Outside the provisions of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC), are there any new initiatives planned which would hold content providers responsible (for example, by means of taxes or levies) for the capacity bottleneck they have played a part in creating, so that, in accordance with the polluter pays principle, those fuelling the need for further expansion would have to pay for network expansion costs?
3. How would the Commission propose that the financial burden of network expansion be shared fairly between end customers, internet service providers, telecommunications network operators and content providers?