

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004720/25
to the Commission
Morten Løkkegaard (Renew)
(28 November 2025)**

Subject: Telecom consolidation — European Commission

In the report by Mario Draghi entitled ‘The Future of European Competitiveness’, he argues that consolidation of the European telecom-sector is necessary to ensure a true single market for telecommunications and to secure an adequate level of investment in infrastructure and security.

1. Does the Commission agree with Mr Draghi’s conclusion that increased telecom consolidation on the European market is essential to deliver a true single market in the sector and to increase the level of investment in it?
2. Does the Commission have any concrete plans to propose legislative actions that could facilitate telecommunications sector consolidation in the EU?
3. Can the Commission deliver an estimate on the impact on consumer prices of increased consolidation of the European telecom sector to a level that matches the telecom market in the United States?

Submitted: 28.11.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(16 February 2026)**

The report on the Future of European Competitiveness points to the need to complete the Digital Single Market by addressing fragmentation along national borders and to create EU-wide players by facilitating cross-border integration and operations.

The Commission shares the objective of a genuine single market for electronic communications and recognises that regulatory fragmentation can hinder cross-border scale and investment.

On 21 January 2026, the Commission presented a proposal for a Digital Networks Act ⁽¹⁾ (DNA) aimed at reinforcing competitiveness, strengthening the single market for connectivity and improving resilience and preparedness of Europe’s digital infrastructure.

The DNA proposal is not about consolidation of the electronic communications sector within the respective Member States, but it aims, with a simplified and more harmonised legal framework, to reduce administrative burden and incentivise electronic communications operators to innovate, invest, scale up, and offer better services to end-users cross-border.

Any consolidation between market players will remain a commercial decision and will continue to be assessed under competition rules pursuant to the EU Merger Regulation ⁽²⁾.

The Commission cannot provide a general estimate of the price impact of increased telecom consolidation. Mergers are and will continue to be assessed case by case.

Available evidence shows that lower prices in the EU reflect effective competition, while service quality has continued to improve: EU mobile prices remain structurally below US levels, while performance parameters are comparable or better. The Commission will continue to enforce merger control to protect competition and consumers.

⁽¹⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on digital networks, amending Regulation (EU) 2015/2120, Directive 2002/58/EC and Decision No 676/2002/EC and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1971, Directive (EU) 2018/1972 and Decision No 243/2012/EU (Digital Networks Act), COM(2026) 16 final.

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 of 20 January 2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings, OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, pp. 1-22.