



## **NOTE**

### **Response from the Danish Government to the public consultation on EU guidelines for the application of state aid rules in relation to the rapid deployment of broadband networks**

The Danish Government supports initiatives aimed at the fulfilment of the Commission's broadband goals for 2020 including the revision of the guidelines on state aid for broadband networks. It is the Danish Government's view that there may be differences in the types of initiatives needed in Member States and it is, therefore, important to retain flexibility for Member States in how these goals are met.

The Danish Government welcomes the added clarity which the revised guidelines provide on the considerations and examinations to be carried out before state aid may be used. It is especially important to safeguard the incentive for private investments in broadband infrastructures and to ensure that the granting of state aid does not distort competition. This follows from the Danish Government's view that broadband deployment should continue to be market based as a main rule.

The Danish Government suggests that the guidelines should be based on functional requirements for both basic and NGA networks. The guidelines should be technology neutral and choices of technology should only be made when project preparation is finalised based on which technology meets the functional requirements in the specific case. It therefore follows that specific technologies should not be mentioned e.g. in the NGA definition. Recent years have seen developments in which speeds different broadband technologies can deliver, or can be expected to deliver within a few years. Thus, the guidelines should be flexible as to choice of technology but they should set functional requirements.

Where it is necessary to provide state aid, it is the Danish Government's view that there should be a requirement that the technology used can deliver speeds above 30 Mbps. This suggestion is based on the Commission's 2020 broadband goals for all Europeans to have access to speeds of above 30 Mbps. In order to achieve the long term goal, state aid should only be given to technologies that can deliver speeds above 30 Mbps.

Furthermore, it should be possible for Member States to decide that state aid is only given to projects able to deliver speeds above 100 Mbps in support of the Commission's 2020 goal for uptake of broadband as well

as national goals such as the Danish broadband goal of access to 100 Mbps for all households and enterprises by 2020.