

Digital & Telecom Monthly Brief

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Main Takeaways

Key Developments from the Previous Month

What to Watch This Month

Main Takeaways

Romania Launches DeepTech Incentives - The Ministry of Finance proposes “TechUp România,” offering grants and a 200% tax deduction for DeepTech R&D investments, with strict co-financing and commercialization requirements.

EU Moves to Single Satellite Licensing - The European Commission plans an EU-wide authorization system for mobile satellite services, replacing national licenses with unified spectrum, coverage, and access rules.

Telecom Regulation Tightens Across Pricing and Access - Romania advances new rules on wholesale network access, FX billing, RON-only contracts, and stricter digital consent requirements, increasing compliance obligations for telecom operators.

Cybersecurity and Digital Governance Expands - New measures strengthen ANPC powers over illegal online content, enable STS cloud procurement flexibility, and formalize DNSC-led cybersecurity coordination with safe-harbor rules for vulnerability reporting.

Key Developments from the Previous Month

(1) Ministry to Launch DeepTech State Aid Scheme with 200% Tax Incentives

In May, the Ministry of Finance issued a draft Government Decision introducing a **state aid scheme, “TechUp România,” aimed at supporting advanced technology investments** through grants and a **200% tax deduction for eligible R&D expenses**. The scheme targets DeepTech projects with investments between RON 5 – 50 million, requiring a combination of research and industrial development that progresses technologies to full commercial readiness (TRL 9). Funding is conditioned on co-financing requirements, technical validation of project maturity, and long-term operational commitments after completion.

***Impact:** The scheme is relevant for companies in AI, semiconductors, robotics, and other Industry 4.0 sectors. Eligible businesses must secure significant private co-financing, meet strict technological maturity milestones, and maintain investments for at least five years.*

(2) Proposal: Mandatory Repairability Index for Electronics

USR MPS are proposing, through a new **legislative initiative**, a **mandatory repairability index (score 1–10) for electrical and electronic equipment sold to consumers**. The index would be calculated by manufacturers or importers based on predefined parameters and made available throughout the supply chain. Retailers, including online platforms, would be required to display the score prominently alongside product pricing, both in-store and online. Finally, manufacturers must provide the necessary data in a standardized electronic format when products are placed on the market. The proposal sets a 180-day transition period after publication. For now, we shall await the start of the debates in the Senate (first chamber).

***Impact:** Manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers of electronics and household devices would face new product data and labelling obligations, thus displaying repairability scores. The measure would also create compliance and operational costs across supply chains.*

(3) ANCOM Imposes Network Access Obligations on Digi Romania.

Following approval from the European Commission, ANCOM adopted a **decision** that **requires Digi Romania to grant competing operators access to its fixed broadband network** under transparent and non-discriminatory conditions. Digi must publish and maintain a Reference Access Offer, provide access to local loop and virtual access services on fair terms, and comply with specific service delivery, fault repair, and performance monitoring requirements.

***Impact:** The decision strengthens wholesale access opportunities for telecom operators seeking to provide fixed internet services using Digi’s infrastructure. Digi’s competitors may benefit from easier and more predictable access to the operator’s network.*

(4) Fixed Access Market Framework, Updated.

Through its second **decision** adopted in May, ANCOM identifies **the relevant market for local access services at fixed locations**, updating the regulatory framework for wholesale broadband access in Romania. The decision covers both physical and virtual local access services, including FTTH and VDSL networks, and provides the basis for imposing specific obligations on operators found to hold significant market power. It also redefines the geographic scope of the regulated market and replaces the previous framework established in 2015.

***Impact:** Telecom operators should reassess their access and interconnection arrangements, commercial terms, and the regulatory implications of operating in the designated geographic areas. Operators identified as having significant market power may face additional wholesale access and competition obligations.*

(5) Romania to Standardize FX Billing Rules for Telecom Contracts.

The Romanian Senate, acting as the first chamber, adopted a USR **legislative proposal** that **requires telecom providers to issue all invoices in Romanian LEI** using the official National Bank of Romania (BNR) exchange rate from the previous business day, without additional margins or fees. Providers must also **inform customers before contract signing** that billing will be converted into lei under these rules. The measure also introduces financial penalties for non-compliant invoicing practices. The bill is currently in the final debate of the Chamber of Deputies.

***Impact:** If adopted, telecom operators will need to adjust billing systems for foreign-currency contracts to ensure full compliance with mandatory BNR-based conversion rules and eliminate any additional FX mark-ups.*

(6) Additional Debate on Mandatory RON-Only Contract Pricing.

Instead, the Chamber of Deputies (decision-making body) has sent back to committee a 2020 **draft bill** that would **require all service and utilities contracts between Romanian-resident parties to be denominated exclusively in Romanian LEI**. The bill covers a broad range of sectors, including utilities, telecom, internet, transport, insurance, healthcare, and other consumer services. It also introduces obligations to amend existing long-term agreements to comply with the new currency rules and restricts the use of exchange-rate-based pricing mechanisms.

***Impact:** If adopted, the measure would require those service providers to overhaul contract templates, billing systems, and pricing mechanisms to ensure full RON denomination. Companies with long-term contracts would face immediate contractual remediation obligations.*

(7) Senate Rejects Proposal for Mandatory Online Age Verification.

Remaining on the subject, the Senate (first chamber) has rejected a USR **legislative proposal** that would have **required online merchants to electronically verify users' age before selling age-restricted products** or granting access to restricted services. It also included strict privacy safeguards, **limiting the data that could be processed during verification** and **prohibiting the use of such data for profiling**. The bill has already reached the deputies for a final round

of debates.

***Impact:** Companies would need to implement approved age verification solutions while complying with strict data minimization and privacy requirements. The rejection means these obligations will not advance at this stage of the legislative process, but it's worth monitoring this proposal during the final debate in the Chamber of Deputies.*

(8) EU Proposes Single Authorization Framework for Satellite Mobile Services.

At the end of May, the European Commission adopted a **proposal for a Regulation** introducing an **EU-wide authorization framework for mobile satellite service (MSS) operators in the harmonized 2 GHz band**. This would allow selected operators to provide pan-European satellite connectivity services under a single EU authorization, eliminating the need for separate national licenses. It also establishes common spectrum allocation rules, coverage obligations across all Member States, wholesale access requirements, and technical, security, and supply chain conditions for authorized operators. The debate in the EU Council and Parliament on this proposed regulation is expected to commence soon.

***Impact:** The measure is particularly relevant for satellite operators, MSS and direct-to-device providers, IoT connectivity providers, wholesale capacity suppliers, and companies developing satellite and hybrid satellite-terrestrial infrastructure. Businesses seeking access to the spectrum will need to participate in an EU-level selection process and comply with harmonized technical, security, coverage, and wholesale access requirements.*

What to Watch This Month

(1) ANPC Set to Expand Its Role in Online Content Oversight.

The **powers of the National Authority for Consumer Protection (ANPC)** could include the **supervision of illegal online content under Romania's implementation of the Digital Services Act (DSA)**. The Government is expected to adopt this month the **decision** establishing these new responsibilities. Therefore, ANPC would become a relevant authority for enforcing national DSA rules, cooperating with other authorities and assessing cases involving illegal online content.

***Impact:** Companies can expect a more active consumer protection authority, with increased oversight of online services, products, and consumer complaints once the reorganization is completed.*

(2) Deputies, to Review Legal Basis for STS Cloud Infrastructure Procurement.

In June, the Chamber of Deputies is set to review, as the decision-making body, the **draft bill** approving GEO 34/2026, which amends the national cloud infrastructure framework under GEO 89/2022. The amendment, adopted by the Senate, **allows the Special Telecommunications Service (STS) to procure operating system and database licenses for the functioning of user systems hosted in the national government cloud**, even before the completion of intergovernmental agreements required under existing legislation. The measure is linked to Romania's NRRP commitments, particularly Target 157 under Component 7 (Digital Transformation).

***Impact:** The change primarily affects cloud service ecosystems involving government infrastructure providers, software vendors, and licensing suppliers for operating systems and databases used in public cloud environments. It accelerates procurement timelines for critical cloud components, enabling faster deployment of national cloud services and supporting PNRR implementation deadlines.*

(3) Rules on User Consent for Cookies and Device Data Access, in the Final Debate.

The deputies will also give their final vote on a PSD-AUR **legislative proposal** introducing **stricter rules for how electronic communications operators obtain and manage user consent for storing or accessing information on terminal equipment**. Rejected by the Senate, the bill requires that consent interfaces present acceptance and refusal options with equal visibility, prohibits pre-checked boxes and misleading design patterns, and mandates a separate mechanism for detailed preference settings. Operators are also required to allow users to withdraw consent at any time as easily as it was given, with limited exceptions for essential network transmission or explicitly requested services.

***Impact:** If approved, telecom operators and digital service providers will need to redesign consent flows across websites, apps, and digital platforms to*

ensure strict compliance with “equal choice” and anti-dark-pattern requirements. Companies must also implement robust systems to log, prove, and audit user consent while ensuring easy withdrawal mechanisms.

(4) Deputies, to Formalize Cybersecurity Coordination.

This month, we also expect the deputies to adopt a **bill** establishing an **interinstitutional committee** coordinated by the National Cyber Security Directorate (DNSC) to improve cooperation, analysis, and communication between authorities in cybersecurity matters. The proposal also clarifies that **good-faith security testing and disclosure activities carried out without malicious intent or system harm should not constitute a criminal offence**. Vulnerabilities identified in ICT systems must be reported within 48 hours under strict confidentiality and system protection rules.

***Impact:** The measure is relevant for cybersecurity researchers, ICT vendors, digital service providers, and critical infrastructure operators. If adopted, companies will need to implement structured processes for handling vulnerability reports, while benefiting from clearer legal certainty for good-faith security research and improved coordination with national authorities through DNSC.*