

**STOP
DNA**



**DIGITAL
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Associazione Italiana
INTERNET Provider

#StopDNA: Time is running out—protect Internet freedom in Europe

The Italian Internet Providers Association (AIIP) is taking action to make its voice heard at European level. The call for evidence on the Digital Networks Act gives a glimpse into the future shape of the regulation, expected by the end of 2025, which could mark the end of the open and competitive telecommunications ecosystem.

Milan, 12/06/2025

The so-called Digital Networks Act (DNA) is the most serious attack ever made on the free and pluralistic Internet in Europe: if approved, it will destroy decades of progress and hand control of the network over to a few financial and industrial giants, with devastating effects for consumers, businesses and regions.

The measure is expected to see the light of day in December 2025: it will not be a simple revision of the European Electronic Communications Code – a revision of dubious appropriateness given the short time that has passed since its transposition at national level – but a complete rethinking of industrial policy

for the telecommunications sector. A few days ago, the European Commission launched a consultation, and the few and fragmented elements made available raise many concerns about the possible text coming at the end of the year: a direct attack on the open and competitive European telecommunications market

To counter this dangerous plan and promote a vision that opposes the former incumbents' narrative, AIIP has launched the #stopDNA campaign: a call to all companies in the supply chain and European citizens, as well as trade and consumer associations, organisations and institutions, to make their voices heard and defend the independence of the Internet.

Behind seemingly neutral words such as “simplification”, “competitiveness”, “efficiency” and “rationalisation”, the way is being paved for the creation of a pan-European oligopoly, in which three or four large operators, often linked to non-European groups, will control access to the network and data flows across the entire continent.

In other words, a 30-year leap backwards and a return to oligopoly, sufficient to wipe out the widespread benefits brought about by the liberalisation process in terms of quality, costs and service availability.

Even more than pluralism in service provision, it is infrastructure pluralism that is under threat, the foundation of effective competition and innovation, even at a technological level.

Without a much-needed change of direction, the Digital Networks Act will jeopardise not only the

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hundreds of independent local ISPs that have sprung up across Europe, but also exchange points, system integrators,

device manufacturers and installers – to name just a few of the categories that would be affected – which in recent years have made the European internet one of the most efficient and balanced in the world. Thousands of jobs are at risk in Italy, even without considering the effects on the entire supply chain.

The impacts of a significant reduction in competition are well known: less innovation, less choice, less investment, lower quality and higher prices for consumers. This is exactly the opposite of the objectives that the European Union wants to pursue: strategic independence and resilience. If there's an oligopolistic market, fixed and mobile connectivity – which is currently available at reasonable prices for a high-quality service – will see big price hikes that will inevitably hit end users.

Net neutrality is also at stake: a fundamental principle without which the European Internet risks becoming a two-speed network, where the content and services of those who pay are privileged over all others. This is an unacceptable model, contrary to users' rights and the best European traditions regarding the Internet.

In other words, the few large operators that will govern the market will not have to comply with the constraints that currently limit the ability of providers to control and measure traffic and, above all, to be remunerated for each piece of content and service that passes through their networks. On the one hand, we will see the legitimisation of the so-called fair share (the traffic tax that large players should pay to ISPs for the use of their network infrastructure), which AIIP has always opposed, recognising platforms as one of the main drivers of demand for fixed ultra-broadband connectivity. On the other hand, consumers risk having to pay extra costs for every non-essential service (e.g. streaming, telemedicine, gaming, etc.).

AIIP sees one final, but no less damaging, consequence: the loss of centrality of national regulatory authorities, which since their establishment have guaranteed competition and promoted a fair market, as well as ensuring respect for consumer rights. With centralised decisions that apply to all Member States, we will move towards a rigid and centralised model. The powers left to Member State authorities, precisely to deal with national specificities in terms of spectrum management, access to infrastructure and pro-competitive remedies, will be removed.

AIIP is calling on all businesses, citizens, associations, regulators and political representatives to take action. Stopping the DNA is a battle for digital freedom, competition and European sovereignty. If we do not act now, we risk losing the opportunity to do so. Through the website

#StopDNA (<https://stopdna.eu/>), you can learn more about the threat posed by the Digital Networks Act and get in touch with the Association to join forces against it.

The public consultation promoted by the Commission ends on 11 July: there is no time to waste. It is essential that the entire industry comes together to send a significant number of contributions protesting against the DNA. This is a crucial opportunity to join forces and stop a project that aims to close and control the European Internet, which must remain free, pluralistic and faithful to its original principles.

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The Italian Internet Providers Association (AIIP) is the first and oldest Italian association of Internet operators. For thirty years, it has been committed to promoting an open, competitive and innovative telecommunications market

and representing the interests of small and medium-sized operators with strong local roots.

Founded in 1995, today AIIP is composed of over 60 telecommunications and Internet companies - with over 250, 000 business customers, 1 million residential customers and a total turnover of more than €1.2 billion - offering various types of Internet services throughout the peninsula: from connectivity, including wireless and ultra-broadband fibre optics, to data centre and cloud services, etc.

LINK



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