



28.02.2019

Press Release from the Alliance of Telecommunications Terminal Equipment Manufacturers

Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs blocks free choice of terminal equipment

In response to a parliamentary request, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs declared that it will not implement the so-called "beleidsregel netwerkaansluitpunt", which defines the network termination point (NTP) in more detail. The NTP determines where the provider's network ends and the private and/or commercial customer's own network begins. The current decision prevents internet users in the Netherlands from being able to determine for themselves which terminal device - router, modem - they use for their internet access.

This turnaround is incomprehensible for the Alliance of Telecommunications Terminal Equipment Manufacturers (VTKE): The Dutch government had long been committed to promoting the free choice of terminal equipment and had conducted a public consultation on the subject between December 2017 and February 2018. The main argument of the network operators that a free choice of terminal equipment would have a negative impact on the functionality and security of their networks was refuted in an expert opinion commissioned by the government in the autumn of 2018.

In the view of the VTKE, there are therefore no grounds, either in terms of content or time, for preventing implementation. The VTKE sees the "socket on the wall" as the network termination point as the basis for consumer freedom of choice. This definition is already standard in some countries, where it leads to product innovation and open competition. In addition, the free choice of terminal equipment is explicitly provided for in EU law.

The VTKE campaigns to secure the success of the liberalization of the telecommunications market in general, and, in particular, to restore the free choice of terminal equipment.

[Link to the letter from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and to the Stratix report](#) (in Dutch)



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