

BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR POSTAL SERVICES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

The BIPT organises a consultation on the cost model for access to the fibre networks of Proximus, Fiberklaar and Unifiber

Brussels, 23 June 2023 – The BIPT organises a consultation on the cost model for access to the fibre networks (FTTH or Fibre-to-the-Home) of Proximus and its subsidiaries Fiberklaar and Unifiber. The purpose of the cost model is to determine fair wholesale prices for access to the FTTH networks, an indispensable condition for healthy competition and continued investments. Stakeholders can send their comments on this cost model until 31 July 2023.

In 2021 two joint ventures were created by Proximus, with EQT Infrastructure on the one side and Eurofiber on the other. The purpose of the joint ventures (Fiberklaar and Unifiber) is to roll out an FTTH network in less dense areas, respectively in the north and in the south of the country. Combined with Proximus' deployments in urban areas, the FTTH network of Proximus will cover up to 70% of the Belgian households by 2028.

Pursuant to a decision of 29 June 2018, Proximus is obliged to provide access to its FTTH network to alternative operators at a so-called "fair price"¹. Fair wholesale tariffs are necessary to enable alternative operators to compete for the benefit of end-users on the one hand, while promoting continued investment in fibre on the other hand.

The obligations imposed on Proximus also apply to the joint ventures controlled by Proximus (together with EQT in the north and Eurofiber in the south). That is why the BIPT verifies whether Fiberklaar and Unifiber apply fair tariffs. This verification is done by means of a cost model reflecting the costs of an efficient operator, taking utmost account of the cost calculation method recommended by the European Commission. The BIPT also verified whether the FTTH wholesale tariffs of Proximus's, approved for the first time in 2021, still reflect the costs of an efficient operator.

In that context the BIPT organises a consultation on the cost model for access to the FTTH networks of Proximus, Fiberklaar and Unifiber. The public consultation offers an opportunity to the sector to comment on the methodology, hypotheses and results of the cost model.

¹ By "fair" the BIPT means a tariff that can exceed the costs but is nevertheless based and in relation with costs. In other words, there can be a reasonable margin between the costs of the product and the wholesale tariffs.

The model currently produces the following monthly access costs for the year 2023:

Type of access ²		Proximus	Fiberklaar	Unifiber
Passive access	Access line	N/A	17.03 €	19.70 €
	Introduction cable towards living unit		6.66 €	6.28 €
	Total		23.69 €	25.98 €
Active access - access line (introduction cable incl.)		20.83 €	26.24 €	28.30 €

These results are provisional. They can be adapted to take account of the results of the consultation. In a second phase, they will have to be translated into an appropriate tariff structure. The price level and structure will be the subject of a draft decision, which will follow the usual consultation process.

Stakeholders can submit their comments regarding the cost model until 31 July 2023.

For more information:



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² Cf. <https://fiberinfo.be/en/general-information/sharing-fibre-infrastructure>