

*For the attention of:
Her Excellency Neelie Kroes, Commissioner for Digital Agenda*

Dear Madam Commissioner,

I'm hereby writing in connection with the intention of MCSI (Ministry of Communications and Information Society) to change the destination of Euro 84 million European structural fund, allocated to increase the penetration of broadband Internet service in rural and isolated areas in Romania.

As a beginning, I would mention that Romania is ranking nearly the last among the EU member countries as the broadband penetration is concerned. In 2007 I had the opportunity to attend the conference "Bridging the Broadband Gap" organized by Mrs. Viviane Reding, Commissioner for Information Society, together with your Excellency and Commissioners Mariann Fischer Boel and Danuta Hubner, which outlined the Commission's decision to support national projects in this particular field. Personally, I have been enthusiastic about the success of this conference and the quality of the projects submitted by some member countries. One of the conclusions of the debates was that market forces are the main drivers of broadband deployment, but the remaining gaps in rural and remote areas may still require public intervention. Therefore, public intervention should increase incentives to invest and lower entry barriers.

Since then, I've been waiting for Romania to submit an eligible project and benefit from European grants.

In 2009, when the government finally approved the National Strategy for the development of Broadband Service, I thought a project would be soon submitted to the Commission and the arrangements for financing would start. But instead, this year MCSI announced the intention to use this Euro 84 million funding for another project – eRomania. Considering the real bad situation of Romania as broad penetration is concerned, the MCSI intention to change the funds destination appears as not justified. Without funding, the government strategy will remain only a useless paper!

In conclusion, I would kindly ask your Excellency, to carefully examine the document which will be presented by ANCOM (National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications of Romania), as requested by the Commission, regarding this issue, and take the best decision for Romania.

Respectfully ,

Dan Cristian Georgescu

Ex-President NRA
President of IT&C Commission of NLP