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Convergence is not the future; nor is it a question for future thought. Convergence is the present. According to the Chairman of the Spanish communications regulatory authority, convergence is part of reality, and it can be seen at three levels: commercial convergence and convergence of services with its own unbundling; the convergence of operators; and the convergence of networks. Furthermore, convergence is such a real phenomenon that regulators must, to an ever greater extent, renew and update the way in which they view the electronic communications markets.

If on the one hand the approach that is imposed is to look at the retail market taking into account its impact on the consumer, on the other, attention must be paid to new wholesale markets, such as wholesale content provision, including football, television series, etc. It is important to anticipate what consumers want, given that this is one of the key drivers of the evolution of the new markets. Identifying what will be the object of analysis, what will drive the markets of the future, this is fundamental.

According to the Spanish regulator, the main task for electronic communications regulatory authorities is to create competition, taking into account the two prongs of “software” and “infrastructure”. Therefore, a flexible approach needs to be adopted which accommodates conditions for competition in the markets, but which always takes the concern for guaranteeing technological neutrality into account. For some time, the previous logic will continue to exist, where the loop was copper. In the future – and already today – the loop has a different nature.

And so it is necessary to identify the questions that this raises, through the application of regulation that already exists but which needs to be adapted to the new realities. And so, Reinaldo Illera highlighted the importance of regulation of numbering, content (referring to the existence, in parallel, of communications regulatory authorities and of competition authorities, pointing out that it was important to define the responsibility for regulation of new convergent markets) and of spectrum policy.