Regulatory decision making in telecoms.

Mark Falcon
Head of Economic Regulation, Three
Regulatory Policy Institute Conference 2012



About Three.



Bold claim.

Mobile telecoms: greater rent-seeking incentive than any other industry.

Why?

Only industry where Govt decides number of competitors.

Neither monopoly utility nor free market.



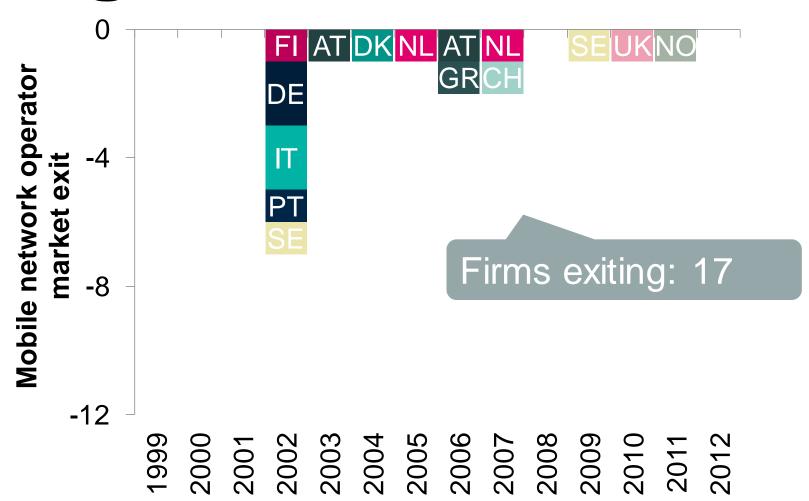




Govts decided need for new mobile entry...



...but have also allowed progressive exit.

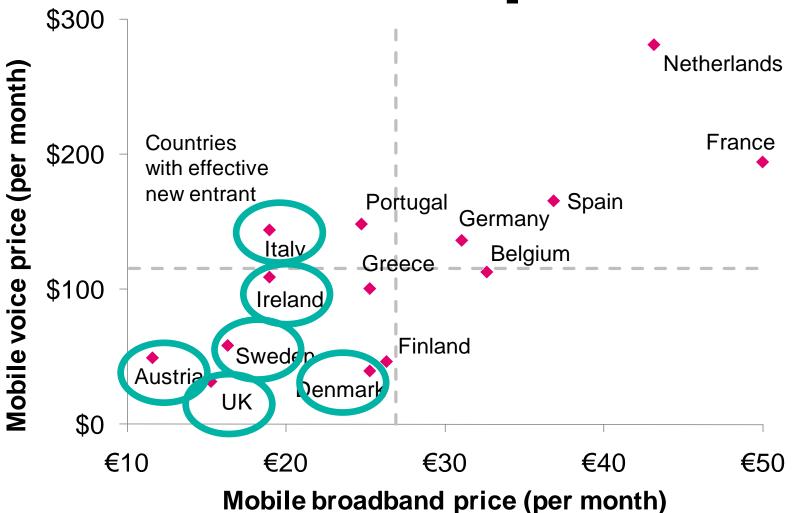


Source: Three research.

Exit not due to weak merger regulation.

- Many new entrants quickly failed.
- Other entrants struggled to grow.

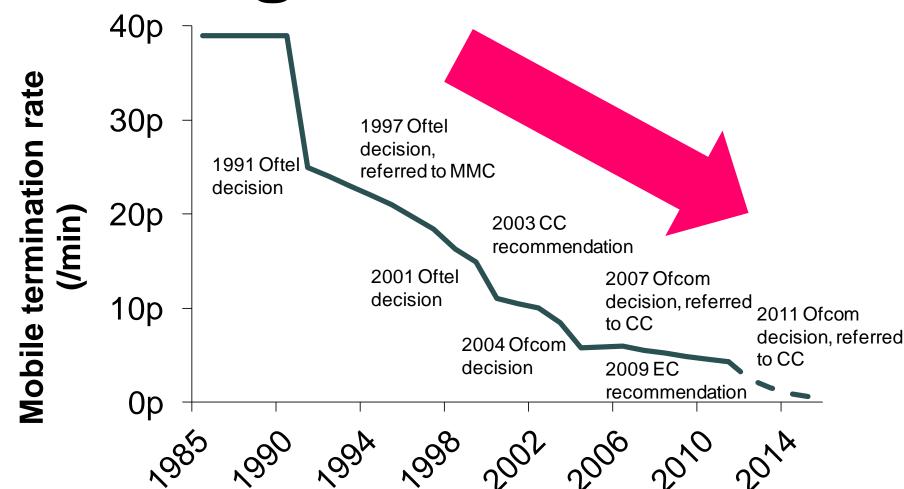
Incumbent incentive to frustrate competition.



Usual regulatory trend: incumbent v. entrant.

- Spectrum licensing
- Mobile call termination
- Mobile number portability
- International roaming.

Mobile call termination: 99% regulated cut.



Source: Ofcom.

Need concerted procompetitive effort.

- EU policy
- National Govt policy
- NRA decisions
- Competition appeals.

Thank you.

