

EN  
E-003051/2018  
Answer given by Ms Gabriel  
on behalf of the Commission  
([23.07.2018])

Together with geographical distribution, the "first come, first served" principle is required by Article 2(6) of Regulation (EU) No 2017/1953 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup>, which underpins the WiFi4EU scheme.

The reasons for cancelling the first "pilot" call in May 2018 relate to a design flaw in the development of the IT system by the Commission's contractor<sup>2</sup>. The European Commission attaches the greatest importance to the fairness and the reliability of its competition procedures and it is committed to ensure that the next call in the autumn 2018 will provide an equal treatment of all applicants in the practical implementation of the first come first served principle.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/1953 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 as regards the promotion of internet connectivity in local communities; OJEU L.286 of 01.11.2017, p. 1–8.

<sup>2</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-18-4158\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-18-4158_en.htm)