

***TELECOMMUNICATIONS REFORM IN MEXICO:
CHALLENGES FOR ENTERING THE GLOBAL DIGITAL ECONOMY***

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Abstract

This article reviews the telecommunications regime of Mexico in the context of the new digital economy. International and comparative economic and telecommunications policy and regulation serve as the backdrop to the Mexican legal scenario. This article suggests that the Mexican regulators have guided the telecommunication reform, in accordance to the technical and legal recommendations of the international community, for transition into the digital age. However, two years past the liberalization of the telecommunications sector, the market is not yet functioning competitively.

In review, the primary impediment to creating a competitive telecommunications market in Mexico seems to reside in the still authoritarian style of governance, which leans towards protection of the Mexican incumbent operator, in the midst of harsh economic reform of the State. Comparisons to reform in other Latin American countries show that authoritarian governments are initially helpful in pushing economic reform, but that in order to maintain market competition state intervention must be substituted by more pluralistic systems of governance. Coherently, with international policy and economic reform in the cases studied, the thesis finally argues for modifications to the Mexican telecommunications law, to further facilitate the role of the regulator as an independent supervisor, rather than as a market manager.

<i>Introduction. Mexico’s Challenge For Entering The Global Digital Economy</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>1. The New Digital Economy</i>	<i>5</i>
1.1 Internet services	6
1.2 Affordable EDI	10
1.3 Deconstruction of authority ?	15
1.4 New Intermediary Services	17
1.5 Market exchange efficiency	20
1.6 Other socioeconomic considerations	23
<i>2. Upgrading The Network And The Corresponding Regulation</i>	<i>24</i>
2.1 The Reason Behind Monopolies	26
2.2 Technical Insufficiencies of Telephone Networks	28
2.3 Innovations in Technology	29
2.4 Innovations in Regulation	34
2.4.1 The U.S. Model	34
2.4.2 Other National Models	37
<i>3. International Policy For Telecommunications Reform</i>	<i>38</i>
3.1 The G-7	40
3.2 OECD	41
3.3 World Bank Group	42
3.3 ISO, ITU, IEC	42
3.4 WTO	44
3.3 Mexico’s international commitments	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<i>4. Comparing The Rift In Telecommunications Reform in Developed and Underdeveloped Nations</i>	<i>46</i>
4.1 U.S. NII Debate	47
4.2 Mexican Neo-Liberalism	50
4.2.1 Privatization and Liberalization of the Mexican Market	52
<i>5. The Influence of Regime in Telecommunications Privatization and Liberalization in Latin America</i>	<i>56</i>
5.1 The Case of Argentina and Mexico	57
5.2 The Case Of Chile	Error! Bookmark not defined.
5.3 The Real Advantages of the Authoritarian Regime?	60
5.4 Globalization, Not Regime, Causes Liberalization	63
<i>6. Reforms For A Competitive Telecommunications Market In Mexico</i>	<i>70</i>

6.1 Reforming The Zerosum Game: Globalization vs. Liberalization vs. DemocratizationError! Bookmark not defined

6.2 Coherent Legal Reforms To The Telecommunications FrameworkError! Bookmark not defined.

6.2.1 New laws _____ 71

6.2.2 New Role Of Authority_____ 72

6.2.3 A Mexican NII Policy_____ 73

Conclusions. Democratic Structure Of The GII-GIS _____ 73