

# VODAFONE GROUP PLC

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FRANCISCA PINTO & MARIA COUTINHO

# COMPANY REPORT

4 JANUARY 2021

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## Bringing Future Technologies Today

*Digital transformation re-invents the future for MNOs*

- Despite Liberty Global's acquisition negative impact of a 18.5 m€ increase in FY20 Net Debt, it will benefit the business by delivering further cost and CapEx savings, as well as an increasing number of fixed subscribers.
- Vodafone's tower business carve-out, Vantage Towers (VT), with an IPO in FY21, will allow for the monetisation of Vodafone's European tower infrastructure, while decreasing both OpEx and CapEx, and implying a greater value of Excess Cash for the year, offsetting the existing high level of debt, reaching a value of 56b€.
- The towers disposal, together with the existing network sharing agreements' synergies, will reduce pressure on the Group's capital spending and enhance focus on asset utilization.
- 5G development in Europe will shape Vodafone into a more efficient business, while shifting the main focus from B2C to B2B clients, with higher economic power, resulting in an ARPU increase of 5% in FY23, contrarily to the industry's revenue depressing tendency, given intense competition.
- Covid-19 impacted the telco industry, however, it has been exempted from major restrictions, as the increased reliance on connectivity boosted traffic growth, still enabling an increase in European Operating CFs.

### Company description

Vodafone is one of the major players in the Telco industry worldwide and one of the leaders in the European segment. It offers a wide range of products and services, such as mobile and fixed broadband, TV and voice, as well as IoT solutions. The Group is integrated in a very competitive environment and operates in two main segments, Europe and Africa.

**Recommendation:** BUY

**Price Target FY21:** 1.92 €

**Price (as of 3-Jan-21)** 1.38 €

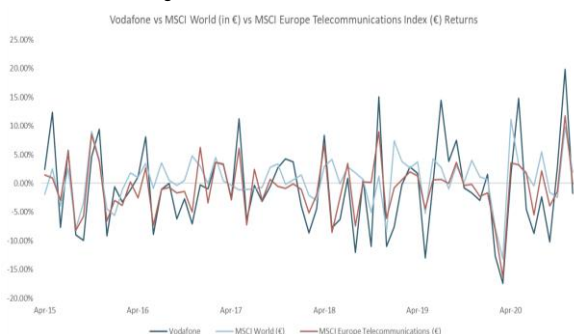
Bloomberg: VODI GF Equity

52-week range (€) 1.029-1.882

Market Cap (€m) 37057.8

Outstanding Shares (m) 26834.0

Source: Bloomberg



Source: investing.com

(Values in € millions)	2019	2020E	2021F	2022F
Revenues	43666	44974	39420	39049
Adjusted EBITDA	13918	14881	13726	13797
Adjusted EBITDA margin	31.9%	33.1%	34.8%	35.3%
Net Income	-7389	-455	-1608	-998
EPS	-0.27	-0.02	0.19	-0.05
P/E	-6.10	-82.77	11.76	-42.69
Dividend per Share	0.09	0.09	0.16	0.14

Source: Vodafone Annual Reports, Analysts Estimations

**THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED EXCLUSIVELY FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES BY FRANCISCA PINTO & MARIA COUTINHO, A MASTER IN FINANCE STUDENT OF THE NOVA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS. THE REPORT WAS SUPERVISED BY A NOVA SBE FACULTY MEMBER, ACTING IN A MERE ACADEMIC CAPACITY, WHO REVIEWED THE VALUATION METHODOLOGY AND THE FINANCIAL MODEL. (PLEASE REFER TO THE DISCLOSURES AND DISCLAIMERS AT END OF THE DOCUMENT)**

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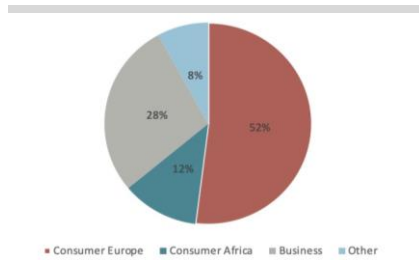
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# COMPANY OVERVIEW

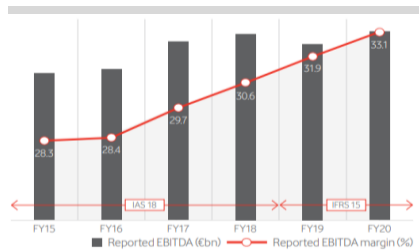
**Exhibit 1 – % of Vodafone Revenues per Geography in 2020**



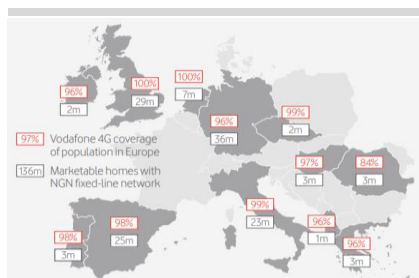
**Exhibit 2 – % of Vodafone Service Revenues per Segment in 2020**



**Exhibit 3 – EBITDA Margin Expansion**



**Exhibit 4 – Mobile Network Sharing and Scaled Fixed Infrastructure**



Source: Vodafone Annual Report 2020

Vodafone Group Plc, founded on July 17, 1984, and headquartered in the United Kingdom, is an international telecommunications company with approximately 93,000 employees spread across its different geographic business areas. Over the last two years, through several acquisitions, mergers, and disinvestments, the company is now organized into two scaled regional platforms, Europe and Africa. Its European segment, which represents most of the Group service revenues, relies on operations based in Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Other Europe, and its Rest of World (ROW) segment includes South Africa, Egypt and Other Africa. Moreover, the Group holds interests in various joint ventures in the Netherlands (VodafoneZiggo), Australia (Vodafone Hutchison), India (Vodafone Idea and Indus Towers), Italy (INWIT), and in an associate in Kenya (Safaricom).

The Group provides a wide variety of communication services to consumers and businesses, comprising voice, messaging and data across mobile and fixed networks. However, the European and African consumers' needs are clearly distinct, hence, it offers mobile, fixed, and TV services, separately or in bundles, Internet of Things' (IoT) solutions and security and insurance products in Europe, and multiple mobile services allowing to call, text, and obtain data, and a mobile payment platform, M-Pesa, to provide a simplified solution to people who own a mobile phone but do not have access to a bank account, in Africa. Regarding the Business segment, the Group offers mobile, fixed, converged communications services and IoT, cloud&security and carrier services. Additionally, Vodafone also rents wireless capacity to mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs), representing 8% of total service revenue (Exhibit 2). Concerning most recent highlights, in 2019, Vodafone announced the creation of the largest European tower company, already operational, and acquired Liberty's assets, evolving into an utterly convergent player in Europe.

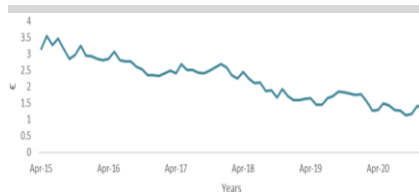
The Group's revenues and service revenues increased from FY19 to FY20, reaching a value of €44.97 billion, and €37.87 billion, respectively. In FY19, Vodafone began a program to cut its cost structure while improving network quality and clients' experience, which has triggered the enterprise to obtain a fifth consecutive year of EBITDA margin increase (Exhibit 3). Its main capital allocation concerns are to support infrastructure investments, reduce debt and maintain returns to shareholders.

<sup>1</sup> FY: fiscal year ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March of each year

## SHAREHOLDER STRUCTURE

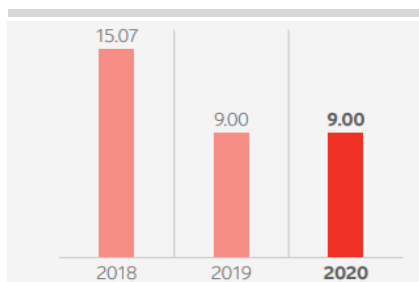
Concerning ordinary shares, Vodafone has a primary listing on the London Stock Exchange and a secondary on NASDAQ, where it is traded in the form of American Depositary Shares issued by Deutsche Bank, each representing ten Vodafone ordinary shares. Most of the shares are owned by Institutional investors (81%), followed by General Public (18%), and the remaining is split among Government, Public and Private companies, individual insiders, and employees' share schemes. Top 25 shareholders own 46% of the company, being the most significant shareholder BlackRock Inc, with 7% ownership. In general, Institutional investors have low-risk aversion, easy access to capital, and are highly concerned with shareholder value, as their performance is frequently assessed regarding financial success<sup>2</sup>, positively affecting the firm's performance<sup>3</sup>.

Exhibit 5 – Vodafone Share Price



Source: investing.com

Exhibit 6 – Vodafone's Dividends per share



Source: Annual Report 2020

Since 2018, the shares have lost half their worth (Exhibit 5). In 2019, the Board decided to rebase the dividend per share to €0.09, a 40% reduction over the previous fiscal year's dividend (Exhibit 6). The Group decreased its dividend for the first time in its history<sup>4</sup>, as it was considered imperative to increase financial margins to support the strategic targets which, ultimately, drives shareholder value. For FY20, the Board maintained total dividends per share of €0.09, implying an interim dividend of €0.045, paid in February 2020, and a final dividend of €0.045, paid in August 2020, despite revenue growth, but Vodafone intends to increase its dividends for the future, which we support, given the expected debt and profitability improvement and historical dividend policy.

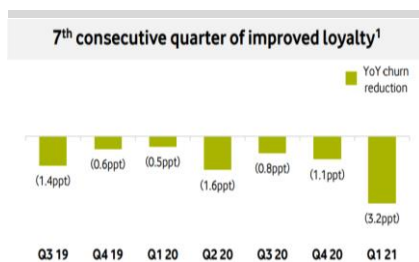
## STRATEGY

Vodafone's strategic plan focuses on four main strategic priorities:

### Deepen Customer Engagement

In **Europe**, Vodafone aims to drive growth by focusing on the existing customer base, given its limited growth potential in such a mature market, through upselling converged offers and additional services, having reached 7.2 million converged customers in Europe, 0.6 million more than the year before, driving emphasis towards improved customer loyalty (Exhibit 7), with mobile contract churn reaching its low record of 14.6%. Another growth opportunity comes from having

Exhibit 7 – YoY Churn Reduction



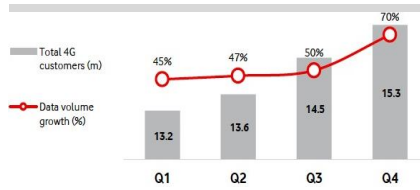
Source: Vodafone Q1 FY21 Presentation

<sup>2</sup> Pound, 1988; Thomsen & Pedersen, 2000

<sup>3</sup> McConnell & Servaes, 1990; Thomsen & Pedersen, 2003; Tuggle et al., 2010

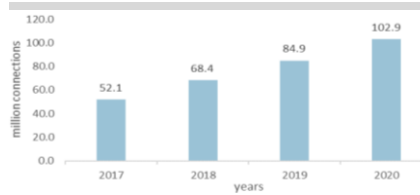
<sup>4</sup> "Vodafone chiefs cut bonuses in effort to prevent investor revolt", The Guardian, 2019

**Exhibit 8 – Vodacom’s improved performance**



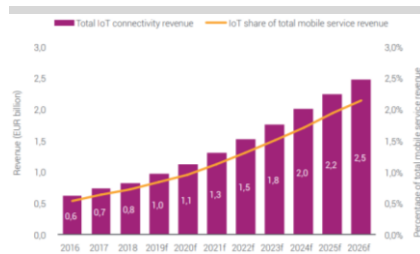
Source: Vodafone FY20 Presentation

**Exhibit 9 – Vodafone’s IoT SIM connections**



Source: Annual Report 2020

**Exhibit 10 – IoT revenue forecast Europe**



Source: ETNO

***"5G will be sort of the backbone of industrial tech so when we really push the digitization of our societies, the security of the 5G network is absolutely of the essence."***

Commissioner Margrethe Vestager

**Exhibit 11 – Digital targets for FY21**



Source: Vodafone Digital First Investor Open Office

***"This exponential growth will lead to a drastic change in how people manage their everyday lives. Vodafone is the world leader in this technology in the business segment and now it will leverage its know-how to enable thousands of consumers to get the most out of the next global digital revolution"***

Emanuel Sousa, Private Business Division Director of Vodafone Portugal.

Europe’s largest NGN fixed-line network, with growing net additions. And so, we support this trend will go on in the future for most European countries.

In **Africa**, Vodafone is a mobile data and payments provider, expecting to meet growing mobile data demand (Exhibit 8), given the lack of fixed broadband access, through network coverage extension and increasing handset affordability. We believe there is also a substantial opportunity to grow M-Pesa and broaden it into new financial and digital services, keeping up with its transaction volume trend.

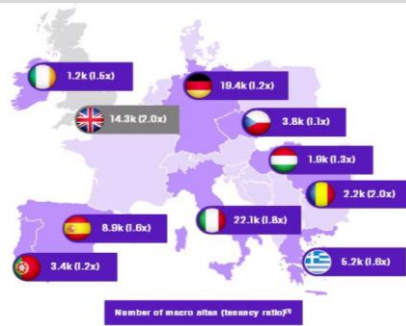
Concerning the **Business** segment, there is an opportunity to gain market share in the evolving wide area networking market, given companies increased dependence on remote working and increased investments in software defined networking, cheaper and more reliable than legacy solutions. Also, telcos will be the single network enabling the industrialization of its Internet IoT platform, leading to a technological shift on a range of industries<sup>5</sup>, and so, we assumed Vodafone’s IoT SIM connections will continue to grow (Exhibit 9). Achieving such expansion of 5G connectivity, by assuming an increase in CapEx, will support AI, autonomous car systems and cloud computing, amongst other growth potential areas (Exhibit 10).

## Accelerating Digital Transformation

It has been reflected in a simpler operating model, through technological developments in the channel mix and digital customer care teams, offering personalized solutions, through Vodafone’s Shared Services division “\_VOIS”, by automating several operational processes across robotics, AI and process optimization, by continuing to invest in network infrastructure. This is assumed to increasingly reduce distribution channels’ commissions, moving from mass media to a personalized contact with customers, expecting a rise in digital sales and a reduction of retail stores (Exhibit 11). 5G roll-out will help building a competitive digital economy and encourage innovative new services, such as Quality of Service (QoS) differentiation, fixed wireless access (FWA) opportunities, and a range of potential consumer IoT applications, tailored to meet the increasingly specific customers’ needs, while bringing a significant cost reduction and services quality improvement. However, competition stays intense and governments continue to raise more money than expected from electromagnetic spectrum, resulting in heavier capital expenditures.

<sup>5</sup> “To be or not to be”, Monitor Deloitte, 2017

Exhibit 12–Vantage Towers’ tenancy ratios

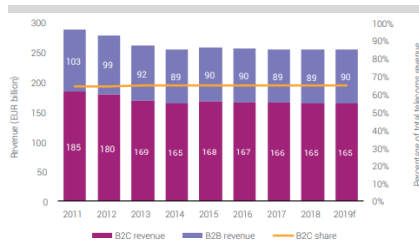


Source: Vantage Towers

**“By outsourcing, MNOs can release capital so they can invest in new technologies like fiber deployment and 5G. It’s going to be very capital intense in the coming years, so they have a greater interest to outsource the provision of infrastructure to independent TowerCos.”**

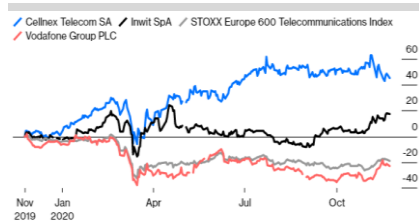
Patrick Boyeaux CEO American Tower France

Exhibit 13 – B2B and B2C revenue within Europe, 2011–2019f



Source: ETNO

Exhibit 14 – Cellnex and INWIT outperformed Vodafone and STOXX Europe 600 Index



Source: Bloomberg

## Improving Asset Utilisation

In July 2019, Vodafone announced its plan to carve-out its tower business, VT, with an expected IPO in early 2021, which will allow for increased usage of Vodafone’s European tower infrastructure (Exhibit 12), creating a new shared network<sup>6</sup>, and supporting the trend of MNOs reinventing themselves, moving away from infrastructure ownership<sup>7</sup>. In the same month, Vodafone’s share price rose, with return increasing 14% being the real catalyst behind this jump the carve-out of Vodafone’s tower assets. The Group intends to retain a majority stake in VT, expected to sell 25% of equity, projecting to raise €4 billion from the IPO, believed to be valued at around €20 billion<sup>8</sup>. These values are considered in our valuation, through impacts in the firm’s financial statements. We believe there are three main reasons for this carve-out. Firstly, to capitalize its high-quality sites and build a cleaner business model; secondly, the IPO proceeds will partially offset its high debt levels; finally, to finance future high CapEx requirements to roll-out 5G<sup>9</sup>, which will shape Vodafone towards a more profitable business, adding a huge adoption from B2B clients, shifting from the past B2C focus (Exhibit 13). This will arise with the upcoming massive adoption of 5G technology by factories, being followed by Smart Cities, and later self-driving cars, once a full 5G coverage is reached, expected to have a significant positive impact in revenues.

Going deeper, the VT’s IPO intends to gain from the release in value on the Group’s balance sheet as infrastructure assets are valued at a higher level than telcos. For instance, tower owners, Cellnex and INWIT, have outperformed Vodafone and STOXX Europe 600 Telecommunications Index (Exhibit 14). With the upsurge of 5G networks, telcos need to provide greater 5G connectivity, which implies more antennas placed and, consequently, more tower space. Instead of building themselves or acquiring more towers, telcos will progressively share them by leasing only the antennas’ space. Currently, Cellnex averages 1.58 antennas per tower, while VT averages 1.37, with both tenancy ratios prone to increase, due to the demand increment.

However, it is necessary to recognize that VT will probably trade at a discount when compared to Cellnex, since, while Cellnex is a more independent tower company, VT has Vodafone as a major shareholder, which can be negatively perceived by other competitors. Vodafone is able to claim 10% of VT’s towers as strategic sites, blocking other carriers, which ensures Vodafone’s network quality

<sup>6</sup> “Vodafone Group Plc: Vantage Towers”, Vodafone Group, 2020  
<sup>7</sup> “The New Digital Landscape for Tower Companies”, BCG, 2020  
<sup>8</sup> “Europe’s Best Telecoms Stock Is a Real Estate Company”, Bloomberg, 2020  
<sup>9</sup> “Towers of power: European telcos find value in masts”, Financial times, 2020

and coverage. Thus, VT will probably not grow as much as Cellnex, given that this control can hold back competitors to lease from VT. Therefore, VT is probable to trade more aligned with INWIT, that presents a similar position regarding MNO's ownership and lack of independence. INWIT EV/EBITDA multiple is 24x, indicating it is traded at discount, when compared to Cellnex's EV/EBITDA multiple of 30x. Another important aspect is that Cellnex's growth has also been driven by large acquisitions, while VT is more constrained, for now, as it only has €1 billion of capacity for extra debt, according to its CEO<sup>8</sup>.

VT holds 68000 masts across nine countries, assuming a first or second tower market share position in most of them, and an additional future 33.2% stake in INWIT joint venture with Vodafone Italia, a recently announced merger in Greece with Wind Hellas' tower assets and plans to include Vodafone's 50% owned UK joint venture company CTIL, which owns both Vodafone and Telefonica's passive tower infrastructure. VT will be supported by long-term contractual commitments with highly rated tenants, with its anchor tenant being Vodafone.

#### Exhibit 15 – Vodafone's Portfolio Activity

Acquisitions	
Germany & CEE	Acquisition and integration of Liberty Global's assets for €18.5 billion in July 2019
Greece	Acquisition of CYTA Telecommunications Hellas for €118 million in July 2018
Albania	Acquisition of AbCom for an undisclosed amount in March 2020
Disposals	
New Zealand	Sale of 100% holding to Infratel and Brookfield for €2.0 billion in July 2019
Malta	Sale of 100% holding to Monaco Telecom for €242 million in March 2020
Qatar	Sale of 51% holding to Qatar Foundation for €301 million in March 2018
Egypt	MoU signed with Saudi Telecom in January 2020 to pursue sale of 55% holding for €2.2 billion
Mergers	
Italy	Merger of Vodafone Italy's towers into INWIT for €2.35 billion and 37.5% holding in INWIT in March 2020
India	Merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular in July 2018
India	Agreement on proposed merger of Indus Towers with Bharti Infratel in April 2018
Australia	Merger of our existing Vodafone Hutchison joint-venture with TPG Telecom received competition approval in March 2020
Africa	Consolidated our holdings in Safaricom and M-Pesa to be primarily held through Vodacom in April 2020

Source: Vodafone Annual Report 2020

## Optimising the Portfolio

The simplification of Vodafone's portfolio will help reduce financial leverage, solely focusing on Europe and Africa, supported by strategic partnerships' synergies, reducing costs and the environmental effects of its networks (Exhibit 15).

## M&A

In July 2019, Vodafone acquired Liberty's assets in Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Romania for €18.5 billion, becoming the largest Gigabit-capable owner of NGN infrastructure in that region, expecting hundreds of millions of annual cost and CapEx savings, as well as a positive impact on the Group's revenues. Vodafone suffered a loss in FY20 of €0.5 billion (FY19: €7.6 billion), due to gains on the sale of Vodafone New Zealand and Vodafone Malta (€1.2 billion), the INWIT joint venture (€3.4 billion), together with a €2.5 billion loss related to Vodafone Idea.

In FY20, Net Debt was much higher than the previous year, relating to Liberty's acquisition and spectrum costs, in part offset by €4.4 billion from disposals and Vodafone Italy's towers merger with INWIT (€2.35 billion), with a 37.5% holding. Vodafone received dividends of €0.2 billion after recapitalization and later sold down 4.3% of the shareholding (€0.4 billion), creating Italy's leading tower company, jointly owned with TIM, having both agreed on an active mobile network-sharing partnership within INWIT, enabling them to roll out 5G together, reaching a wider geographic area at lower costs and expected value added from

early 2021, with rental income arising<sup>10</sup>. The Group also concluded several network sharing partnerships, with Deutsche Telekom in Germany, Orange in Romania and Spain, O2 in the UK, and Wind in Greece, improving network capacity and coverage.

## ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The coronavirus pandemic has brought a worldwide economic shock of colossal scale, causing recessions in several countries. In October 2020, the International Monetary Fund predicted a global GDP contraction of 4.4% in 2020, the deepest worldwide recession since the Financial Crisis of 2008, and 5.2% growth in 2021 (Exhibit 16). Afterwards, the global growth will decelerate to around 3.5% until 2025, translated into a narrower development than expected before the pandemic, however, assuming a worldwide economy recovery for our projections.

European governments implemented sizable fiscal measures to sustain households and companies, allied with an agenda to avoid a high unemployment rate. To prevent financial markets disturbance, the ECB has reacted with a robust monetary policy and supervisory measures and launched the Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme, valuing €1850 billion. The European Union, in a substantial exhibition of solidarity, is deploying supranational means to fund anti-pandemic facilities and complement national fiscal measures. IMF forecasted an EU GDP contraction of 7.6% in 2020, followed by a growth of 5% in the following year. Likewise, the Group's main European markets followed the same trend; their GDP declined in 2020 and is projected to rebound in the next years. Moreover, inflation is projected to remain relatively low over the forecast horizon.

Due to the pandemic and the decline in oil prices, the African economies have suffered both demand and supply-side shocks, intensifying economic disparities, increasing credit losses, and raising gaps between funding and liquidity<sup>11</sup>. The International Growth Centre considers that confinement measures may have additionally pushed 9.1% of the population into extreme poverty<sup>12</sup>. In many countries, central banks have proactively developed a policy response to these challenges to safeguard financial sector steadiness for both households and corporations. In 2020, South Africa's GDP is projected to contract (8%), and subsequently recover (3%) in 2021, while in Sub-Saharan Africa it is projected a decrease of 3%, and a recovery of 3.1% in 2021. Regarding Vodafone's future, we believe the African segment will have a slower economic recovery than the

Exhibit 16 – Global GDP growth rate

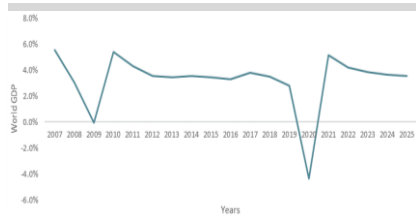


Exhibit 17 – Inflation Rate

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Germany	1.3%	0.5%	1.1%	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%	2.0%
Italy	0.6%	0.1%	0.6%	0.9%	1.0%	1.2%	1.4%
United Kingdom	1.8%	0.8%	1.2%	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%
Spain	0.7%	-0.2%	0.8%	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%
European Union	1.4%	0.8%	1.2%	1.4%	1.5%	1.7%	1.8%
South Africa	4.1%	3.3%	3.9%	4.3%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%
Sub-Saharan Africa	8.5%	10.6%	7.9%	6.9%	6.5%	6.3%	6.1%
World	3.5%	3.2%	3.4%	3.2%	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%

Exhibit 18 – GDP Growth Rate

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Germany	0.5%	-6.0%	4.2%	3.1%	1.8%	1.3%	1.2%
Italy	0.3%	-10.6%	5.2%	2.6%	1.7%	0.9%	0.9%
United Kingdom	1.5%	-8.8%	5.9%	3.2%	1.9%	1.7%	1.6%
Spain	2.9%	-12.8%	7.2%	4.5%	3.4%	2.8%	1.5%
European Union	1.7%	-7.6%	5.8%	3.3%	2.5%	2.0%	1.6%
South Africa	0.2%	-8.0%	3.0%	1.5%	1.5%	2.1%	2.3%
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.2%	-3.8%	3.1%	4.0%	4.4%	4.4%	4.3%
World	2.8%	-4.4%	5.2%	4.2%	3.8%	3.6%	3.5%

Source: International Monetary Fund

**The IMF outlines the considerable uncertainty regarding the growth and inflation projections since it relies on economic and public health matters, which are, by its very nature, difficult to predict.**

Source: World Economic Outlook, IMF

<sup>10</sup> “Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control over INWIT by Telecom Italia and Vodafone, subject to conditions”, European Commission, 2020

<sup>11</sup> “Central Banks in Africa Are Guiding Banks Through COVID-19’s Economic Fallout”, S&P Global, 2020

<sup>12</sup> “The Mobile Economy Sub-Saharan Africa”, Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), 2020



European one, given its developing nature and the less mature telco market. Therefore, we adopted a more conservative approach regarding the potential of Rest of the World’s revenue forecasts, for the first few years.

## INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

### Europe

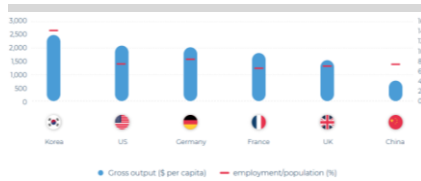
**“5G is happening and fiber is making the European internet significantly faster”<sup>13</sup>**

Europe benefits from advanced innovation capacity, funding mechanisms, and a global leading research base underpinning fast implementation of 5G, having one of the largest markets for consumer and business services. It is supported by two leading mobile infrastructure suppliers<sup>14</sup> with considerable R&D and manufacturing presence, and its industrial and economic strengths lie mainly in sectors such as automotive, manufacturing, and healthcare. The 5G value chain in Germany is estimated to generate higher economic output per capita than in China by 2035 (Exhibit 19). More than the amount of connections, the real added value of 5G will result from its differentiated IoT and low-latency services, enhancing mobile broadband to deliver speedier data.

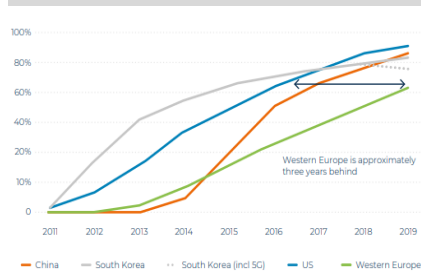
Despite that, Europe has been slower than others in providing 5G large scale commercial services, with only 13 EU Member States having launched them by September 2020, hindered by past delay in 4G migration (Exhibit 20). Only 26.4% of 5G spectrum has been assigned in Europe<sup>15</sup>, with high variance between countries. Europe stands above the global average in download speeds<sup>16</sup> and is still one of the most advanced areas for 5G placement (Exhibit 21 & 22).

Microwave transmission still dominates mobile backhaul, enabling 10 Gbps and beyond, with a high stabilizing market share, while fiber’s share continues to grow and copper share decreases. In Europe, around 70% of towers are connected by microwave links, requiring fiber availability, to provide network diversity and coverage. 5G, not only requires both microwave links and fiber, but it also influences both the wireless and wireline wing of the network infrastructure. The 5G FWA enables operators to provide high-speed broadband and high-definition streaming services to suburban and rural areas, allowing 5G radios mobile technology to cross the fixed line services demand and prices. It provides a competitive alternative to wired broadband, more expensive to install

**Exhibit 19 – Economic Contributions of the 5G Value Chain (2035)**

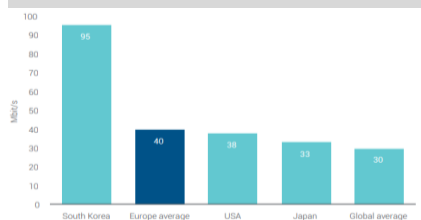


**Exhibit 20 – 4G Usage (% of subscriptions using 4G networks)**

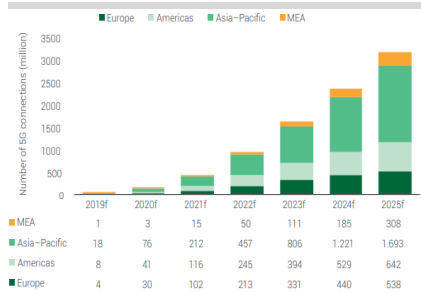


Source: ERT

**Exhibit 21 – Average mobile downlink speeds in Europe, Japan and South Korea, the USA, in September 2019**



**Exhibit 22 – Forecast of number of 5G connections 2018–2025**



Source: ETNO

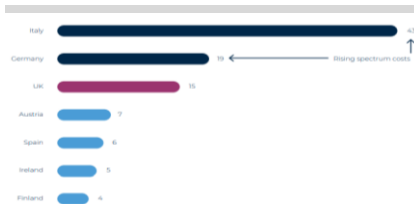
<sup>13</sup> “The state of digital communications 2020”, European Telecommunications Network Operators’ Association (ETNO), 2020

<sup>14</sup> “TIM and Ericsson reach new European record for 5G speed”, Ericsson, 2020

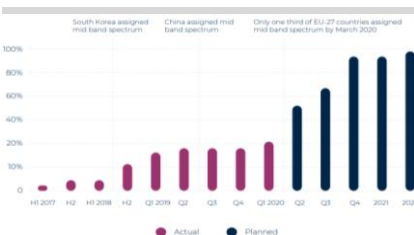
<sup>15</sup> “European 5G Observatory”, European Commission, 2020

<sup>16</sup> “The state of mobile network experience 2020: One year into the 5G era”, Opensignal, 2020

**Exhibit 23 – Price Per MHz Per Capita For Mid Band Spectrum (€ cents/3-5 GHz)**

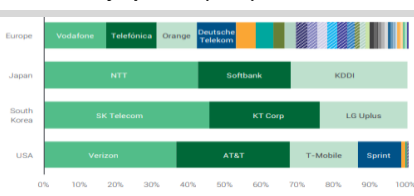


**Exhibit 24 – Availability of Mid Band (3-5 GHz) Spectrum in EU-27 (share of EU-27 Member States, %)**

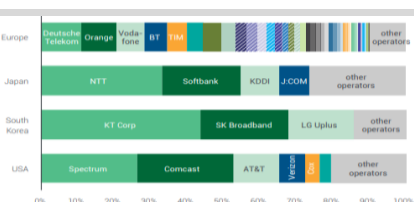


Source: ERT

**Exhibit 25 – Share of mobile service revenue by operator (2019)**



**Exhibit 26 – Share of fixed service revenue by operator (2019)**

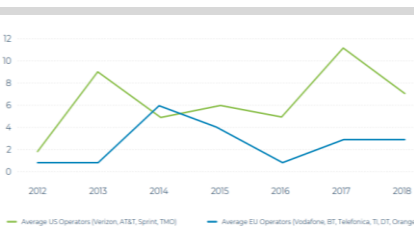


Source: ETNO

**Exhibit 27 – Investment Intensity (CapEx/EBITDA, %)**



**Exhibit 28 – Return on Invested Capital (%)**



Source: ERT

and maintain, accelerating bandwidth turn up pressures on the global network and allowing for a higher concentration of users without causing obstruction<sup>17</sup>.

**“Regulation and its implementation should support European investment and innovation.”<sup>13</sup>**

There are regulatory inhibitors to investment in 5G. Firstly, the **inflated electromagnetic spectrum prices**<sup>18</sup>. European governments have not been treating 5G network as critical infrastructures, having instead prioritised spectrum monetisation, instead of ensuring its availability, whereby some telco companies are being charged up to 14x more than its global competitors (Exhibit 23 & 24). High spectrum costs hold back the market, creating a cost opportunity related with the spending at 5G auctions, in which, unlike physical networks, operators cannot decide to postpone it, thus, regions with a riskier business environment may not benefit from 5G. Ultimately, regulatory pressures lead to uncertainty and more intense CapEx.

The **highly fragmented European market structure**<sup>18</sup>, with much more MNOs in Europe than in other regions, and lack of harmonising spectrum allocation criteria, which leads European operators to be spread more thinly in comparison to global competitors, both in mobile and fixed markets (Exhibit 25 & 26).

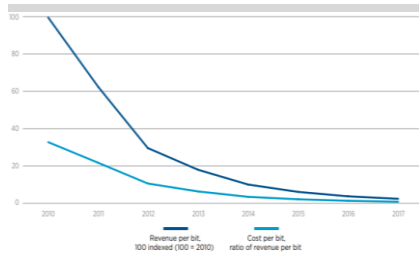
**Continuous support of revenue depressing measures and artificially endorsing unsustainable levels of competition**<sup>18</sup>. While intense competition has benefited lower consumer pricing and service innovation, it has negatively impacted revenues, as well as roaming provisions. Between 2017 and 2018, the CapEx/EBITDA ratio remained nearly flat for European operators, whereas in US and South Korea decreased, meaning telcos’ revenues in these countries increased faster than investments (Exhibit 27), leading to a higher return on invested capital (Exhibit 28). The sector has suffered a decade of deflation in Europe, with European telcos bearing 2% more deflation than telcos in US, Japan and South Korea (2008-2018), due to higher market fragmentation.

And finally, **European telcos are under a degree of regulation that big tech is not**<sup>18</sup>. There is a disparity of regulation concerning digital and telco sectors regarding security, privacy, and transparency, with telcos being subjected to further privacy regulations, inconsistent with the GDPR and creating an additional imbalance in terms of competitiveness.

<sup>17</sup> “Fixed wireless access Outlook”, Ericsson, 2020

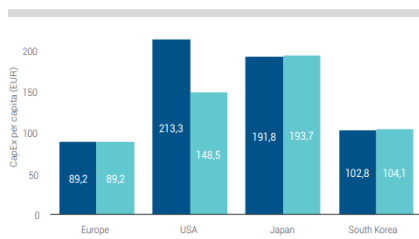
<sup>18</sup> “ERT Position on Regulatory Framework for 5G”, European Round Table for Industry (ERT), 2020

**Exhibit 29 – Revenue/Gb versus Cost/Gb for Mobile Data**

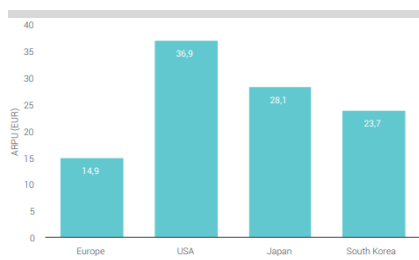


Source: GSMA

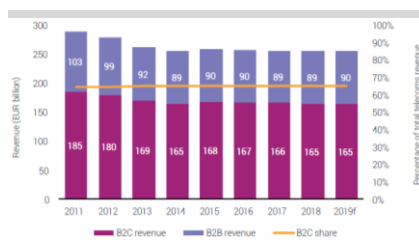
**Exhibit 30 – CapEx per capita, 2018**



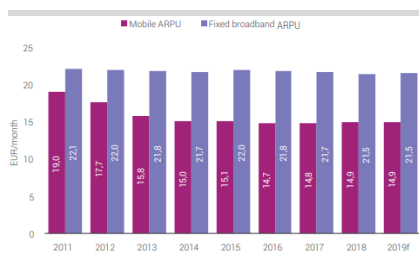
**Exhibit 31 – Mobile ARPU (excluding IoT SIMs), 2018**



**Exhibit 32 – European B2B and B2C revenues, 2011–2019f**



**Exhibit 33 – European Mobile and Fixed broadband ARPU, 2011–2019f**



Source: ETNO

**“European telecom markets need to become stronger. Investment is still too low, despite high capital intensity and investment leadership by ETNO companies.”<sup>13</sup>**

The Directive on measures of rolling-out high-speed electronic communications networks seeks to make broadband deployment more cost-effective, through methods like sharing and re-using existing physical infrastructure, bringing sustainable economic and social benefits<sup>19</sup>. This maximises network’s efficiency and utilisation. 5G will sustain the previous trend in mobile data pricing of 4G, where larger network capacities and the smaller gap between the revenue/GB and cost/GB curves<sup>20</sup> (Exhibit 29) have led to the adoption of unlimited data bundles.

European telcos invest heavily in infrastructure, more directed towards fixed, although expected some rebalancing with the deployment of 5G. There has been a strong investment in FTTP, as it presents lower OpEx and a lower environmental impact than other solutions. Though it is still far from achieving the European Gigabit Society 2025 targets<sup>13</sup>, as it involves high CapEx. In Europe, one of the main reasons for the slow fiber roll-out is the lack of appropriate physical infrastructure in the old copper network. In countries such as Germany and the UK, FTTP development has been delayed because of elevated labour costs.

European telcos have higher capital intensity, but lower investment per capita, than global peers in US, Japan and South-Korea (Exhibit 30), mainly impacted by low prices<sup>18</sup>, with lower ARPU (Exhibit 31), and consumer and business markets’ revenues slightly decreasing (Exhibit 32), supporting Vodafone’s forecasted overall decreasing revenues.

In Europe, fixed and mobile data usage keeps growing sharply. Traffic growth is mainly driven by increased demand for video content<sup>21</sup>. Across Europe, in 2019, 78% of households had a fixed broadband subscription, up from 70% 5 years before. Although, mobile broadband penetration is very high, with 21/37 OECD countries having over 100 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, subscriptions grew 5% in 2019, contrasting with fiber’s growth rate of 13%, being the fastest growing fixed broadband technology reaching 28% of all fixed broadband subscriptions<sup>22</sup>. We continue this trend with a more stable rise in mobile customers and a more robust growth in fixed customers, for Vodafone.

The shift to SIM-only plans and delayed handset refresh rates reduce revenues and contract lengths, and decrease margins, negatively impacting the uptake of

<sup>19</sup> “EU rules to reduce cost of high-speed broadband deployment”, European Commission, 2020

<sup>20</sup> “The 5G guide”, GSMA, 2019

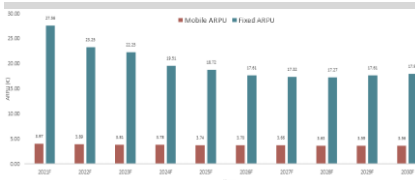
<sup>21</sup> Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI), 2020

<sup>22</sup> “OECD broadband statistics update”, OECD, 2020

**Exhibit 34 – Vodafone's Mobile ARPU and Fixed ARPU per month (Europe)**



**Exhibit 35 – Vodafone's Mobile ARPU and Fixed ARPU per month (ROW)**



Source: Analysts Estimations

**2030 digital technologies will deliver reductions in carbon emissions equivalent to nearly seven times the size of the growth in the total information and communications technology sector emissions footprint over the same period.**

Source: GeSI Digital with Purpose Report

5G services. Innovative technological solutions offered are usually sold at a discount, as premium prices are difficult to sustain, which also happened regarding the FTTP's price of entry-level, which has fallen below that of ADSL. Demand for data services remains elastic, with small shifts in price triggering significant churn in consumer services, though its growth has not been followed by an increase in revenues, given the highly competitive environment. In general, consumers have become accustomed to a specific average price for their mobile subscription and are normally reluctant to pay more<sup>23</sup>, with a flat €22/month ARPU for fixed broadband for the last years, while mobile ARPU has stabilised at just under €15/month, after 2015 (Exhibit 33). Vodafone's ARPU per month lays slightly below European average and is forecasted to decrease according to the existing trend (Exhibit 34).

***“Networks are becoming greener, with both carbon intensity and overall emissions decreasing and aggressive climate targets.”<sup>13</sup>***

The Information and Communications Technology sector has been estimated to produce 2% of global CO2 emissions, similar to the aviation industry, mainly due to cloud computing, which considerably augmented in previous years. Contrarily, the adoption of IoT devices is critical in tackling greenhouse gas emissions, enabling better precision to be applied to resources. Furthermore, the most critical investment fields for Vodafone in the upcoming years, fiber and 5G, have positive environmental implications. The 5G lower cost/byte and concession for several types of traffic with diverse network demands, comparing to 4G, will only be significantly efficient if past generation networks are decommissioned in a prompt manner, meaning that the respective allocated spectrum will be reused more efficiently. Higher demand for data services is influenced by the Jevons paradox, whereas technological progress rises efficiency, which simply supports a growing rate of consumption, with an increase in energy demand of 5%/year. However, by 2019, around 50% of the energy used by European operators derived from renewable resources, reducing overall emissions by 8.5%, which contributed to a lower carbon intensity<sup>13</sup>.

In general, being economically efficient overlies with being sustainable. Network sharing, fixed-mobile convergence and upgrading network technologies will lessen the carbon footprint. On the other hand, renewables usage and recycling of consumed products, shifting energy supply to renewable, carbon offsetting, amongst other measures, come at some higher cost than less sustainable options. With the influx of investment from ESG investors, and as part of Vodafone's commitment to sustainability, the Group developed a Green Bond

<sup>23</sup> “Realising 5G’s full potential: Setting policies for success”, GSMA, 2020

Framework and, in early 2019, issued its first green bond of €750 million to fund projects to achieve the company's environmental aims, and also to meet ESG concerns that investors may have.

**“Digital services, cloud and Artificial Intelligence: telecom operators are enablers of European trust-based innovation.”<sup>13</sup>**

IT services’ market has been growing with higher demand for faster and locally customized cloud services. IoT continues to grow, with telcos enabling industrial and domestic applications, expected to attain around 740 million active connections by 2026. OTTs have been growing their services due to greater resources, economies of scale and certain investment patterns, by innovating in services and products faster than telcos, making it hard for them to compete. Thus, around 70% of mobile customers also use OTT messaging (Exhibit 36).

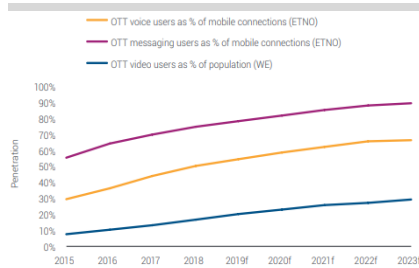
Telecommunications services exhibit a weak correlation to macroeconomic elements, since they are essential services. Though, a decline in discretionary income could result in a moderate drop in business revenues for cable, wireline and infrastructure suppliers, and modest postpaid wireless subscriber losses, to a rise in prepaid connections, given the large availability of similar services, offered by other telcos, indicating a tendency for low customer loyalty.

Substantial new services in video include the Disney+ and AppleTV, which have entered the market with strong advertising and superior value content, having OTT revenues both replacing traditional pay-TV revenues, and growing the market, with services now being provided either by operators or OTT providers (Exhibit 37). Therefore, telcos are increasingly competing with OTT video services, by releasing their own. Some Europeans are purchasing and using multiple TV services, and such trend implicates that stronger platforms will gradually control the market with almost 50% of pay TV revenues being powered by OTT services by 2024. Instead, AI has been increasingly developed to make telcos more efficient and responsive to customer needs, with service and data-driven innovation enhancing networks at their core. AI, together with automation, help ensure European operators remain competitive against non-telco competitors, reducing the subscription cost for the use of new technologies. This corroborates the highly intense level of competition environment in which Vodafone is integrated, supporting extra challenges in increasing profitability, included in our forecasts.

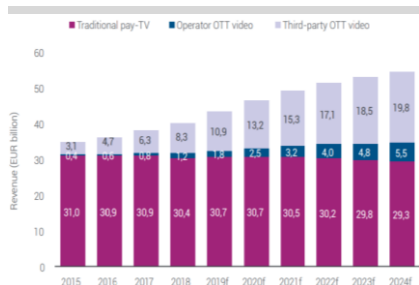
**Shareholders**

Telco operators are accountable to shareholders, as any other business, even when governments hold a part of it. Stock markets have not been generous on the European telcos sector in the recent past, nor expected for the near future,

**Exhibit 36 – OTT services penetration, Western Europe, 2015–2023f**



**Exhibit 37 – Pay-TV vs OTT retail revenue, in Western Europe, 2015–2024f**



**Exhibit 38 – Stoxx Europe 600 index vs Stoxx Europe 600 index for telecommunications vs Stoxx Global 1800 index for telecommunications, 4Q 2014–4Q 2019**



Source: ETNO

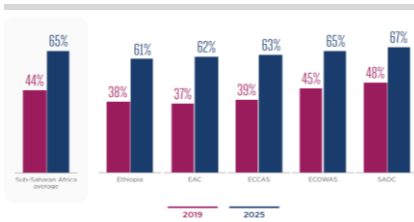
presenting a lower performance than the cross-sector European index and the telcos global index (Exhibit 38).

## Africa

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the pandemic financial impact on the mobile industry is both characterized by the sudden rise in data consumption and mobile money transactions, with positive impact on revenues, offset by initiatives from operators, such as discounts and transaction-fee exemptions to support vulnerable consumers. Prepaid connections are more than 95% of mobile connections, suggesting that consumers are flexible to vary telcos spend when their financial situation changes. This highlights the more sensitive situation lived in the African context<sup>12</sup>. Even though Vodafone bears less competition, as customers are not as loyal as in Europe, the Group faces higher risks regarding the potential customers' loss, negatively impacting revenues. The digital transformation, strengthened by increasing access to broadband connectivity, has enabled remote working and education, online shopping, and digital payments, alleviating the socioeconomic pandemic effects, generating 9% of GDP across the area (2019), supporting more than 3.8 million jobs, and noticeably contributing to the public sector funding, with nearly \$17 billion raised through taxation. In Sub-Saharan Africa, taxes on mobile represent 7% of income for the lowest 20% earners, comparing to the 2% affordability target set by the UN in 2019, which outlines challenges customers face regarding affordability.

The shift to 5G will gain momentum in the 2020s worldwide and the greater opportunity for 5G FWA will arise in emerging countries, where fixed broadband is still not dominant. However, there are still few operators offering 5G mobile and FWA in Sub-Saharan Africa, as 4G will continue to be their primary focus since there is a substantial unexploited 4G capacity, and its adoption is still relatively low. Hence, telco companies will have to make an effort to lower 4G devices' prices and provide appropriate digital content to raise connectivity demand (Exhibit 40). That said, in a post-Covid 19 world, due to the scarcity of fixed-line infrastructure and the growing importance of the digital economy, the 5G FWA will be essential to deliver high-speed broadband connectivity (Exhibit 41). Moreover, with the rapid expansion of the fintech ecosystem, operators are developing mobile money platforms to offset stagnating core earnings and expand their digital environment presence. In 2019, the amount of registered mobile money accounts in Sub-Saharan Africa reached 469 million, and it is forecasted to increase in the future. To meet this rapid expansion plan, Vodafone will significantly increase its CapEx for the future.

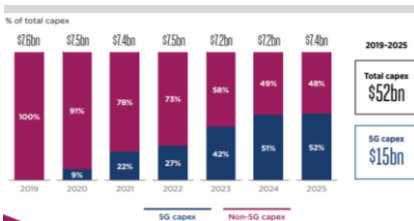
**Exhibit 39 – Smartphones as % of total connections**



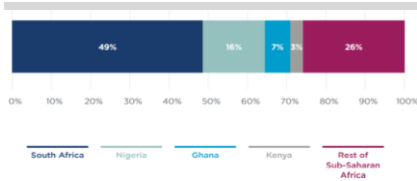
**Exhibit 40 – Strong medium to long-term outlook on rising 4G and mobile money adoption in Sub-Saharan Africa**



**Exhibit 41 – Investment in infrastructure rollout in Sub-Saharan Africa**



Source: GSMA

**Exhibit 42 – IoT connections in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2020**

Source: GSMA

As the pandemic affected all economic sectors, IoT solutions are crucial to enhance operational processes' productivity and efficiency (Exhibit 42). However, this region faces numerous challenges due to insufficient investment and innovation in solutions that tackle local use cases, inconstant power supply, and low purchasing power. Nevertheless, the Sub-Saharan Africa mobile networks expansion, supported by policymakers, has endorsed several pay-as-you-go business models and IoT solutions, enabling the accessibility of products and services to low-income customers, which allow for innovative and reliable energy, water, and sanitation services' models, improving levels of capacity and coverage<sup>12</sup>, however, this sector will still require major investments to meet customers' needs.

## RISK ANALYSIS

It is crucial to analyse Vodafone's major risk factors that may adversely impact the business. Strategic transformation imposes a substantial risk, as Vodafone is undertaking a massive scale incorporation of new assets, which, if not accomplished efficiently, results in additional costs. This process also requires a considerable amount of technology to be transferred prior the conclusion of the transitional services agreements, as failing to digitally transform the business sets it back from competitors and from achieving cost efficiency in its operations. Also, the Group has several joint ventures which it must ensure operate effectively. All these factors compromise the Group's profitability and shareholders' returns.

Cyber Threat and Information Security is also an imminent risk, evolving with the rise of new technologies<sup>24</sup>. A cyber-attack, supplier breach, or insider threat might trigger service suspension and confidential information loss, leading to a significant customer, financial and reputational impact. The implementation of GDPR<sup>25</sup> imposed by the EU has shown the importance of user privacy and data protection. Some European countries are following the US with Huawei's ban<sup>26</sup>, given security concerns, which will impact the Group, as it relies on Huawei gear in most of the countries it operates, which we assume will all follow this trend.

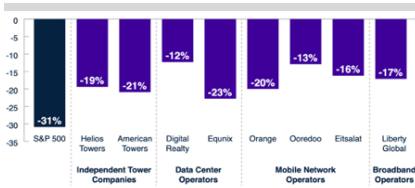
The importance of the global economic disruption is considered, triggered by Covid-19, as it can impact cash-flows, currencies, borrowing costs and debt financing availability. However, as the Group presents long average life of debt, and a major part of its interest costs are fixed, it is not heavily affected by this. Covid-19 impacted this industry but, conversely to many others, the

<sup>24</sup> "Mobile Telecommunications Security Threat Landscape", GSMA, 2020

<sup>25</sup> General Data Protection Regulation

<sup>26</sup> "Vodafone 'pauses' use of Huawei equipment over security concerns", The Guardian, 2019

**Exhibit 43 – Key global telecom players’ performance vs S&P 500, during Covid-19 pandemic**



Source: S&P Capital IQ

telecommunication sector has been normally exempted from major related restrictions. Traffic growth has demonstrated increased reliance on connectivity and digital services. Thus, S&P 500 has been more drastically affected than telcos, and hence, the risk is less severe<sup>27</sup> (Exhibit 43), due to the nature of this crisis. Nevertheless, the first 5G enabled equipment is now becoming available, even though it has been impacted by the pandemic lockdowns, causing supply-chain disruptions. This, together with the 5G smartphones’ higher reliance on chip content, causing an intensified demand, especially after Huawei’s major stock buy, have been setting back chips production, which will indirectly impact Vodafone’s 5G plans’ adoption in the short-term.

Vodafone is also exposed to Market disruption, given the highly competitive environment, with new players pressuring prices down and offering unlimited offers, pushing down market share.

## SCENARIO ANALYSIS

**Exhibit 44 – Scenario Analysis**

	Best Case	Most Likely Case	Worst Case
Probability of Occurrence	12.50%	75.00%	12.50%
Group’s Core Result Before Taxes in m€ (FY21)	10883	10489	10095
Group’s Statutory Tax Rate	26.54%	27.30%	29.23%
Share Price	2.29	1.93	1.51
Shareholders Return	65.82%	39.75%	9.34%

Source: Analysts Estimations

Three scenarios were created to measure the impact of changes in the statutory tax rate, that can be influenced by numerous tax reforms such as financial reporting directives, state aid investigations, future business acquisitions and disposals and restructuring and resolution of open tax issues. The analysis also includes the impact of the abovementioned risk factors on the firm’s profitability, with an EBITDA margin variation, as well as a variation of the reversion period of Deferred tax assets and Deferred tax liability (DTA&DTL) pace (Exhibit 44).

The Best/Worst case assumed, considers the lowest/highest historical value of statutory tax rate since 2010, as standard for the future. Regarding risks, we assumed a 1%point increase/decrease on each country’s forecasted yearly EBITDA margin. The best one reflects efficient strategic integration of new assets resulting in a more efficient business, and accomplishment of the desired digital transformation, allowing the company to keep up or surpass competitors, and achieve cost efficiency in its operations. It also assumes no more serious recessions and an overall growth environment, with higher services’ demand and cash-flows, and little to no impact on currencies, borrowing costs and debt financing availability. Additionally, no significant new peer entries affecting market share were considered. Regarding Huawei ban, future cyber risk will be reduced, involving higher data protection. Contrarily, the worst case reflects the opposite effects. Finally, concerning the DTA&DTL reversion period, in the best case the pace decreases at a slower rate of -5%, while in the worst case it is reverted to 0 in FY21. The report is written under the assumptions of the most likely scenario.

<sup>27</sup> “COVID-19’s Impact on the Global Telecommunications Industry”, IFC, 2020



# FORECASTS

## Income Statement

### Revenues

#### Europe

In the mobile sector, Vodafone has suffered a decreasing trend in revenues, boosted by a shift in consumer mobile data demand, turning to disruptive substitute technologies such as OTTs and software providers, which together with consumers' price sensitivity, contribute to a more intensified competition, pressuring prices down, with a negative impact on ARPU. This is somewhat offset by the increase in the number of customers, but not as significant, due to market fragmentation, with increased smartphone penetration, and reduced voice use, even when offered an unlimited package, as part of SIM-only and contract subscriptions. 5G roll-out is not expected to deliver a significant price increase, but to meet consumers demand for constantly updated services. FWA connections are forecasted to keep growing (Exhibit 45 & 46), resulting in synergies with mobile broadband, due to network trunking effects<sup>17</sup>.

In the fixed sector, growth was led by broadband services and Vodafone's large European NGN footprint, capturing significant market share gains, with customers' moving to Gigabit capable technologies. In 2019, around 60% of households worldwide got a fixed broadband connection, expected to reach 70% in 2025, from which 10% will be attributed to FWA. In 2020, increased demand for wireless household broadband was also led by the Covid-19 disruption<sup>17</sup>. Therefore, we expect Vodafone to follow the respective worldwide fixed network trend, with the number of customers increasing and decreasing ARPU.

European revenues are expected to increase in FY23, boosted by increasing adoption of 5G by B2B clients, with a significant ARPU increase, given their high economic power and heightened interest in investing in IoT as part of their digital transformation. Such scenario was assumed, following the already happening consequences of the 5G release in South Korea, which enabled a higher ARPU, endorsed by the further growth in adoption from more 5G-exclusive services, and more inexpensive 5G plans<sup>23</sup>. Since FY30, due to the expected mass commercialization of 6G<sup>28</sup>, an increase in ARPU is also considered. Concerning other service revenue, predominantly consisting of wholesale revenues from MVNOS, it is forecasted as 0, given VT's creation and respective loss of lease

Exhibit 45 – FWA connections

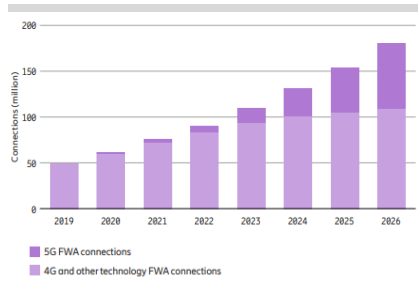
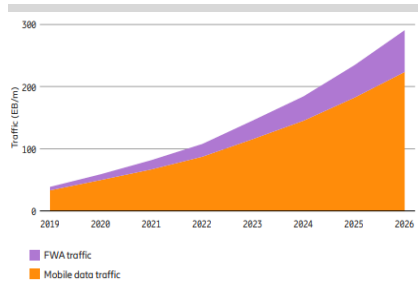


Exhibit 46 – Mobile Data and FWA traffic



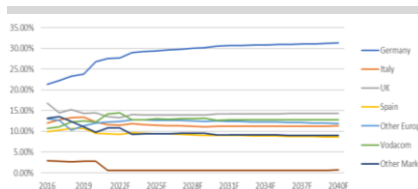
Source: Ericsson Mobility Report

Exhibit 47 – Service Revenue and Adjusted EBITDA Growth per Geography

	FY20	H1 FY21
<b>Germany</b>		
Service Revenue	0.00%	-0.10%
Adjusted EBITDA	2.50%	1.30%
<b>Italy</b>		
Service Revenue	-3.90%	-7.20%
Adjusted EBITDA	6.60%	-11.10%
<b>UK</b>		
Service Revenue	0.50%	-1.20%
Adjusted EBITDA	10.50%	-2.30%
<b>Spain</b>		
Service Revenue	-6.70%	-4.40%
Adjusted EBITDA	-1.70%	-6.00%
<b>Other Europe</b>		
Service Revenue	3.00%	-2.40%
Adjusted EBITDA	4.70%	-2.20%
<b>Vodacom</b>		
Service Revenue	3.30%	2.30%
Adjusted EBITDA	1.10%	3.60%
<b>Other Markets</b>		
<b>Turkey</b>		
Service Revenue	17.60%	13.80%
Adjusted EBITDA	27.00%	14.70%
<b>Egypt</b>		
Service Revenue	14.50%	5.40%
Adjusted EBITDA	14.20%	-10.40%

Source: Vodafone FY20 Preliminary Results

Exhibit 48 – Trend of % of Group Revenues per Geography

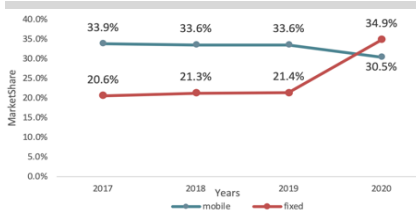


Source: Vodafone Annual Reports and Analysts' Estimations

<sup>28</sup> "Samsung's 6G White Paper Lays Out the Company's Vision for the Next Generation of Communications Technology", Samsung Newsroom, 2020

income from towers' rental. Other revenue, including revenue from connection fees, equipment sales, interest income and lease revenues is projected to be reduced to half of the % of total revenues also due to this effect, only reflected in Europe and Common Functions. Therefore, from FY24 onwards, NOPLAT assumes a decreasing trend.

**Exhibit 49 – Vodafone's market share in Germany**

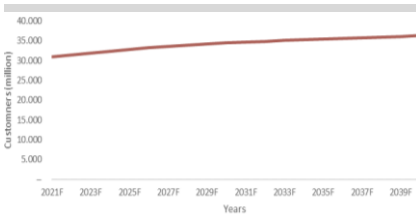


Source: Vodafone Annual Reports

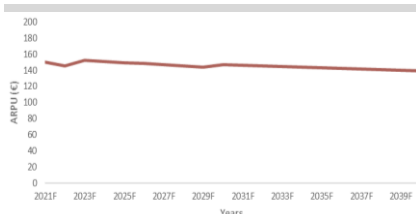
**In Germany, the Government raised €6.5 billion in the multi-band 5G auction**

Source: European Commission, 2019

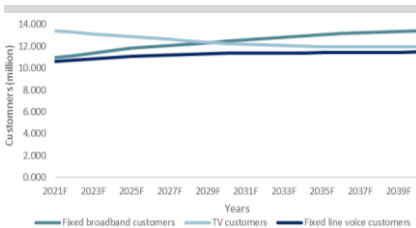
**Exhibit 50 – Germany Mobile Customers**



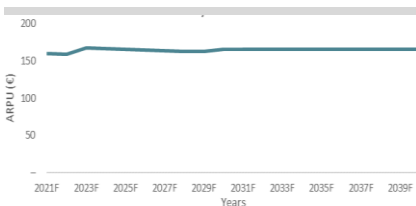
**Exhibit 51 – Germany Mobile ARPU**



**Exhibit 52 – Germany Fixed Customers**



**Exhibit 53 – Germany Fixed ARPU**



Source: Analysts Estimations

**Germany**

Germany is one of Europe's biggest telco markets, having witnessed strong growth recently. Alongside Vodafone, the market leaders are Telekom Deutschland and Telefonica Germany, however, there is intense competition from several MVNOs, which pressures voice and data rates, combined with regulated termination rates and roaming charges, negatively impacting ARPU. Still, leaders maintain market share by investing in innovation, varying from mass-market entertainment to high-end business connectivity.

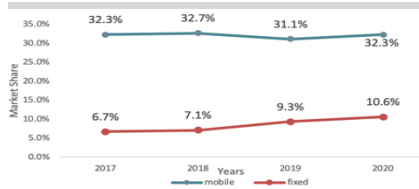
The mobile segment is projected to be boosted by the increasing population, rising bandwidth demand, and increasing IoT, as well as rising data allowances and upgraded networks. In FY20, Germany completed its multi-band 5G spectrum auction, with the bidders being the market leaders and Drillisch Netz, a new entrant that will intensify competition and become a MNO. In H1FY21, mobile service revenue declined, due to drop in roaming, visitor and wholesale revenue, and there were contract and pre-paid customer additions given the online-only proposition 'CallYa Digital', improving contract churn to 12.1%. During FY21 the number of customers is forecasted to grow 3%, maintaining such trend at a lower rate due to high competition, stabilizing at 0.5%. Moreover, the decreasing ARPU trend will continue, excluding FY23 and FY30 effects, stabilizing at 0%.

Despite Germany's industrial proficiency, it presents one of the lowest fiber penetration rates in Europe, however, Vodafone has started to modernize its fiber-cable network to 'GigaKabel' (Gigabit network), part of a billion-euro network expansion program in 2018. With the acquisition of Unitymedia<sup>29</sup> in FY20, the second-largest cable operator, after Vodafone, the Group created a strong converged national competitor to Telekom, enjoying the non-intersecting regional operations, reducing churn, and becoming the foremost Gigabit services' provider. The deal was contingent upon applying a remedy package, including a wholesale cable agreement with Telefonica, and commitment to maintain capacity for OTT services from TV broadcasters. In FY20, NGN broadband service subscriptions increased, reflecting its opportunity to upsell customers to higher speed packages. By FY22, it is predicted that the country will reach 36.9

<sup>29</sup> Liberty Global's subsidiary

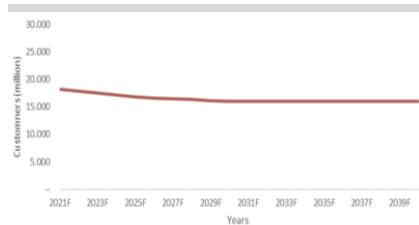
million gigabit households, of 41.5 million German households, the highest across EU<sup>30</sup>. Concerning competition, Telekom announced ambitious plans to accelerate fiber build-out and expanded the wholesale deal with Telefonica beyond VDSL to also include FTTH<sup>31</sup>. In FY20, fixed service revenue increased, with wholesale decline being partially counterbalanced by good retail growth, and cable net customer additions grew, due to the "GigaCable Max" launch, a cheaper gigabit tariff campaign, part of the Unitymedia re-branding. Although the number of fixed customers increased significantly in FY20 due to Liberty, TV customer base declined with Kabel Deutschland<sup>32</sup> losing primarily lower ARPU basic TV subscribers. In H1FY21, it also declined, reflecting a drop-in retail activity during the pandemic and a lower interest in Premium TV, hence, we maintained the trend but at a decreasing rate, due to the convergence plans' adherence. With the fixed-line telephony market under pressure from alternative carriers, we assumed the upward trend will continue, at a lower rate. In H1FY21, fixed service revenue continued growing supported by customer base growth and lower ARPU decrease, due to migration to high-speed plans, slightly decreasing until FY30, then stabilizing at a 0% growth, excluding FY23 and FY30.

**Exhibit 54 – Vodafone's market share in Italy**

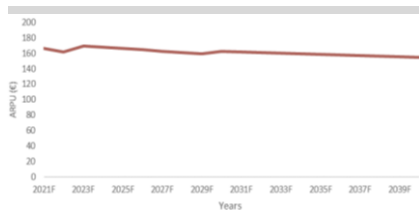


Source: Vodafone Annual Reports

**Exhibit 55 – Italy Mobile Customers**



**Exhibit 56 – Italy Mobile ARPU**

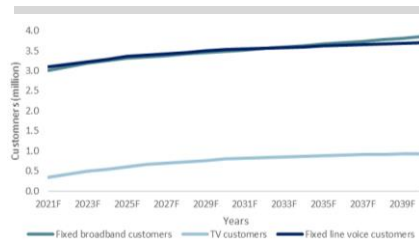


Source: Analysts Estimations

**Italy is at the vanguard of 5G's developments, with spectrum auctions finalized on FY19, raising €6.5 billion, with Vodafone and TIM having spent €2.4 billion each, pressuring the participants to consider cost-cutting alternatives.**

Source: European Commission, 2020

**Exhibit 57 – Italy Fixed Customers**



Source: Analysts Estimations

**Italy**

Since 2016, the market underwent considerable changes following Wind and 3 Italia's merger, resulting in a new entrant, Iliad, offering lower prices and increased mobile data allowance, forcing competitors to rethink their strategies, triggering the creation of low-price brands, Kena Mobile (TIM's) and Ho (Vodafone's). In FY19, Fastweb became an MNO and turned into the fifth Italian mobile operator following the 5G frequencies acquisition.

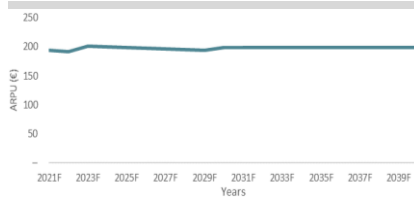
Italy has one of Europe's highest mobile penetration rates, although the number of subscribers has been decreasing given lower benefits from having different providers' SIM cards. In 2019, Fastweb and Wind Tre announced an agreement leveraging their assets to support 5G network deployment, and in response, Vodafone and TIM expanded their existing passive sharing agreement into an active partnership to deploy 5G infrastructure over a broader geographic scope at a lower cost, with the merger of Vodafone Italy's towers into INWIT being completed in FY20. In H1FY21, mobile service revenue declined, reflecting lower roaming and visitor revenue. There has been intense price competition in the low-value segment, however, Ho continued to grow. We consider a further decrease in ARPU, stabilizing at -0.5%, and follow subscribers' downward trend, given higher market fragmentation than in other European countries.

<sup>30</sup> "Germany to be Number 1 in Europe in 2022", Vodafone Institute for Society and Communications, 2020

<sup>31</sup> DESI country profile, European Commission, 2020

<sup>32</sup> Vodafone purchased Kabel Deutschland in 2013, becoming the largest cable TV operator

**Exhibit 58 – Italy Fixed ARPU**

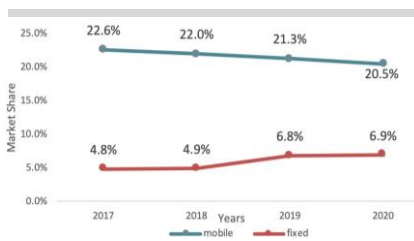


Source: Analysts Estimations

***"This would leave fixed broadband providers with only one seller of wholesale access to the combined network - yet again Telecom Italia."***

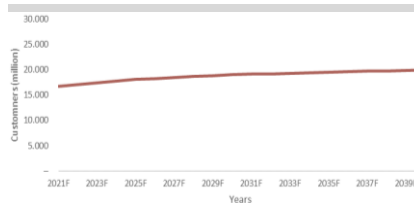
Nick Read, Vodafone's CEO

**Exhibit 59 – Vodafone's market share in the UK**

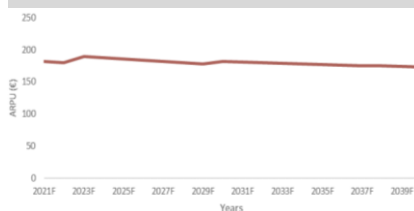


Source: Vodafone Annual Reports

**Exhibit 60 – UK Mobile Customers**



**Exhibit 61 – UK Mobile ARPU**



Source: Analysts Estimations

***"Vodafone is in a unique position to drive forward full-fibre deployment in the UK. (...) The only way the UK will achieve its digital ambition is through strong partnerships, and Vodafone is leading the way."***

Nick Jeffery, Vodafone UK CEO

Furthermore, fixed broadband will be driven by users' preference for higher-speed broadband services, assuming a slower decrease in ARPU and growing customer base. To stimulate the economy, severely affected by Covid-19, the government is pressuring TIM and Open Fiber to reach an agreement to build an all-fiber ultra-broadband network, reinventing a monopoly broadband supplier, against European regulators' requests to promote efficient competition<sup>33</sup>. Hence, we adopted a conservative approach, assuming broadband consumers would follow the upward trend, but at a lower rate. Vodafone introduced TV in 2017, justifying the enormous increase in customers, expected to slow down. The fixed line will continue to increase as well, stabilizing at 0.5%. ARPU will decrease for a few years, assuming the possible monopoly creation, and then stabilize its growth at 0%, given customers increasing preferences for improved services.

**UK**

Vodafone's major competitors are O2<sup>34</sup>, BT, and Virgin<sup>35</sup>. In 2019, Vodafone, together with BT and O2, covered around 75% of overall mobile subscriptions. In FY20, mobile service revenue growth was supported by new market leading speed-tiered unlimited data plans in mobile and broadband, and launch of 5G, driving momentum in customer growth, with strong net additions in pre-paid customers through its digital sub-brand "VOXI". Contrarily, there was lower wholesale revenue and additional international call rate regulation, as well as lower out-of-bundle revenue resulting from intense competition. Vodafone also finalised its partnership with O2 to share 5G infrastructure, on joint network sites across the UK (CTIL), increasing coverage in high demand areas. Vodafone's mobile and home broadband contract prices<sup>36</sup> have been adjusted, with customers signing plans after 9 December 2020 experiencing yearly increases based on the Consumer Price Index + 3.9%, to support continued network investment, resulting in a lower decrease in ARPU, comparing to historical values. During H1FY21, economic pressures and minor roaming, visitor and incoming revenues decreased mobile subscriptions and had a negative effect on ARPU. Also, competition has become more intense with the new Liberty Global merger with Telefonica SA, backing the expansion of O2's 5G mobile positioning. 5G deployment will be delayed due to government's ban of Huawei gear until 2027. We assume ARPU will continue to decrease, and the number of customers to increase slowly, given this competitive reality, with growing number of low-cost MVNO operators, both further stabilizing.

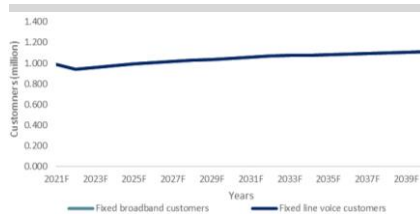
<sup>33</sup> "Italy ups the ante in plan to create single broadband network, sources say", Reuters, 2020

<sup>34</sup> Telecommunications services provider owned by Telefonica UK

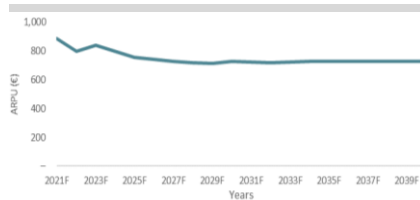
<sup>35</sup> UK cable operator owned by Liberty Global

<sup>36</sup> "Vodafone criticised over timing of UK price rise", Financial Times, 2020

**Exhibit 62 – UK Fixed Customers**



**Exhibit 63 – UK Fixed ARPU**



Source: Analysts Estimations

**“I don’t know any other market in Europe with so many brands,” he said. “It is a very sophisticated and complex market that is unique in Europe.”**

Laurent Paillassot, Orange Spain CEO

**Exhibit 64 – Vodafone’s market share in Spain**

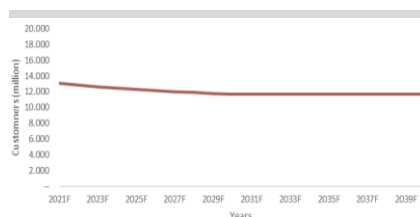


Source: Vodafone Annual Reports

**Given the pandemic, Spain decided to postpone a planned auction of the 5G spectrum, not allocating additional spectrum in the 5G pioneer bands**

Source: European Commission, 2020

**Exhibit 65 – Spain Mobile Customers**



Source: Analysts Estimations

The UK fixed market has been growing in both broadband take-up and coverage<sup>31</sup>. Vodafone’s fixed service revenue increased given fixed broadband consumer additions, supported by the launch of "Vodafone Together" convergent plans. Vodafone’s partnership with O2 will also upgrade their transmission networks with higher capacity optical fiber cables. In FY21, the company is restructuring its deal with CityFibre, to accelerate its full-fiber rollout and offer Gigafast broadband, and backing a new trial in which Openreach will replace every copper-based telephone line with more reliable optical fiber cables, resulting in a significant 32% increase in fixed customers, also supported by its ‘need for speed’ campaign. However, the Liberty’s merger with Telefonica SA will also back the expansion of Virgin’s giga-ready network, increasing competition significantly, awaiting approval from the European Commission, and expected to start having impact around FY22. Such deal will weaken Vodafone’s position at a time when the industry is shifting towards converged bundles offering, and harm its business, with the loss of Virgin as a mobile wholesale client, resulting in a -5% impact in its customer base and -10% in ARPU. Though, we believe Vodafone will continue to rely on wholesale broadband arrangements with CityFibre and Openreach, leaving Pay TV to the OTT market<sup>37</sup>. The fiber network expansion is thus expected to continue, maintaining an increasing trend of fixed customers stabilizing at 0.5%, and ARPU decreasing at a lower rate, stabilizing at 0%, both in FY31.

**Spain**

Spain has turned into one of the most competitive markets in Europe, given price competition driven by a surplus of low-cost brands owned by the four biggest operators. Euskaltel's entrance in a national context has transformed the market into a five-player sector, a few years after Vodafone and Orange consolidated the sector, by buying out minor players to strongly compete with Movistar in their bundled service offers. Orange Spain CEO has warned about the unsustainability of this situation in the long run<sup>38</sup>. Apart from MNOs, there are also numerous resellers, which together with regulated roaming have cut mobile plans cost.

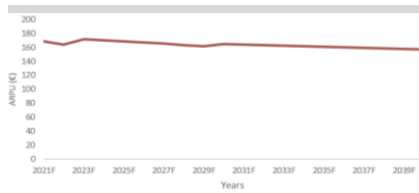
In 2019, Vodafone launched unlimited tariff offers, increasing subscribers, but, in 2020, had to reduce its price due to Telefonica’s launch of its first equivalent plan. In FY20, Orange and Vodafone agreed to strengthen their existing mobile and fixed network partnerships by extending their current active mobile network sharing. In FY21, despite the growth in the contract mobile and Lowi’s<sup>39</sup> customer base, the decrease in prepaid net addition was superior, negatively impacting the

<sup>37</sup> “Virgin Media and O2 owners confirm £31bn mega-merger in UK”, The Guardian, 2020

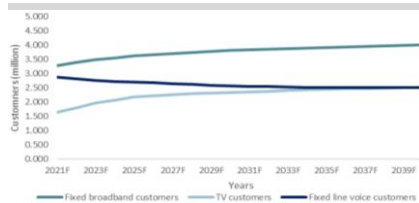
<sup>38</sup> “Pain in Spain for telecoms groups as competition heats up”, Financial Times, 2020

<sup>39</sup> Vodafone’s low-cost secondary brand

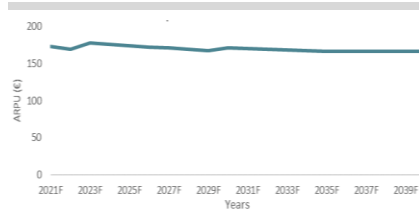
**Exhibit 66 – Spain Fixed ARPU**



**Exhibit 67 – Spain Fixed Customers**

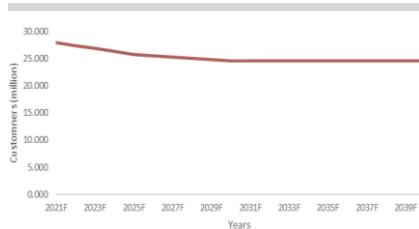


**Exhibit 68 – Spain Fixed ARPU**

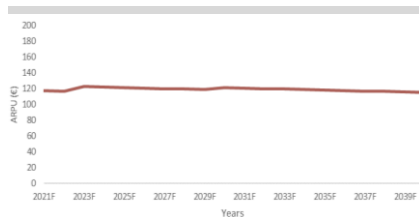


Source: Analysts Estimations

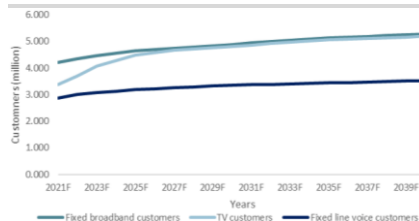
**Exhibit 69–Other Europe Mobile Customers**



**Exhibit 70 – Other Europe Mobile ARPU**



**Exhibit 71–Other Europe Fixed Customers**



Source: Analysts Estimations

overall number of subscribers. We consider a decreasing trend in customer base and ARPU, as the overall pricing environment remains highly competitive, similarly to Italy, partially offset by an uptake of the speed-tiered unlimited plans.

In the fixed sector, CNMC<sup>40</sup> reported that the three big nationwide convergent players (Telefonica, Orange and Vodafone) influence most of the market, but their common share continues to sink due to the share gained by MásMóvil and Euskaltel, with converged bundles accounting for more than 80% of the fixed broadband market. In FY20, Vodafone renewed its FTTH contract with Telefonica, and expanded its previous FTTH co-investment agreements with Orange to new geographic regions, augmenting its footprint and enabling the Group to offer its fiber and convergent services to many additional households over Orange's network<sup>41</sup>. Thus, in FY21, we assume an increase of 4% in fixed broadband customers, projected to continue, at a slower rate, given the high maturity of the market. In the TV and fixed-line telephony markets, there was a switch to other operators, given Vodafone's disposal of pay television football content offerings in FY19, however, there was a following improvement in TV customer base due to new movies and series' offers as well as its new 'boxless' TV proposition. The increase in TV customers is expected to be sustained, at a lower rate, and for fixed line voice, a continuing declining trend is forecasted. ARPU will decrease as well, following the highly competitive environment.

**Other Europe**

In other European markets, Vodafone continued to perform well, with service revenue growing in every country, except in Ireland and Albania. In four out of seven markets, the mobile contract churn was lower than 10%. The operations faced tougher competition in Romania, Czech Republic and Ireland.

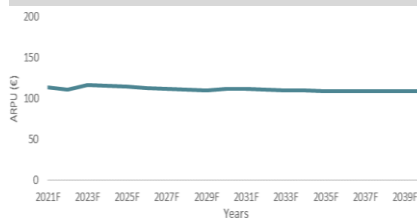
In Portugal, service revenue grew, due to customer growth in both segments and ARPU growth in fixed, and in FY21, Vodafone made a mobile network sharing partnership with NOS, implying a more efficient deployment of 5G. In Ireland, revenue declined, given the slowdown in quarterly trends in both segments and, in Greece, service revenue improved, with pre-paid ARPU growth partially offset by ARPU pressure in fixed. Concerning Portugal and the Czech Republic, regulators are trying to attract a new fourth operator into their wireless market, by offering privileged access to spectrum and an open-ended right to roam on existing operators' wireless networks, negatively impacting Vodafone, by increasing competition<sup>42</sup>. Furthermore, at the beginning of FY21, Vodafone Albania acquired the country's largest cable operator, AbCom, enabling the

<sup>40</sup> National Commission on Markets and Competition

<sup>41</sup> “Vodafone and Orange expand network-sharing deal in Spain”, Reuters, 2019

<sup>42</sup> “Digital infrastructure must look forward, not back”, Politico, 2020

**Exhibit 72 – Other Europe Fixed ARPU**



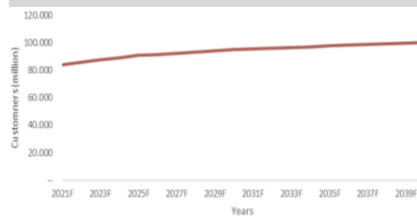
Source: Analysts Estimations

**Exhibit 73 – Vodafone's mobile market share in South Africa**

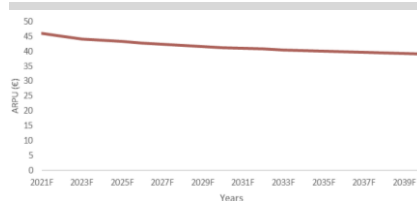


Source: Vodafone Annual Reports

**Exhibit 74 – Vodacom Mobile Customers**

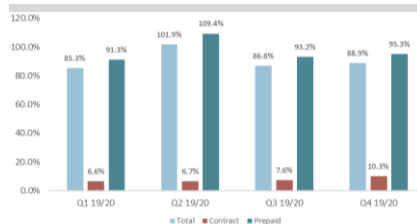


**Exhibit 75 – Vodacom Mobile ARPU**



Source: Analysts Estimations

**Exhibit 76 – Vodacom Mobile Customer Churn Rate**



Source: Vodafone Annual Spreadsheets

Group to become a full-service telcos company, supporting its market leadership position. Moreover, Liberty's acquisition in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Romania is expected to accelerate convergence plans' offers and NGN coverage. Vodafone's and Liberty's CEE businesses are highly complementary, gathering Liberty's fixed customers with Vodafone's mobile consumers to ramp up converged services, on a national level.

Regarding mobile forecasts, the number of customers will decline due to market saturation and migration from multi-SIM pre-paid plans to contract services. Mobile ARPU will decrease 0.5% yearly, following the overall industry trend. Regarding fixed broadband, there will be an increase in customer base due to mainly Liberty's acquisition and we project an increase for the future years, also supported by Albania's acquisition, and the fixed broadband uptrend in overall countries. This also affects the TV and fixed telephony customers as well. Concerning ARPU growth, it will follow the downward trend stabilizing at 0%.

**Rest of the World**

In Africa, mobile revenue growth slows down as some markets develop, while fixed broadband revenue growth accelerates, given more recent inception. Regarding Vodafone, NOPLAT decreases from FY23, given African customers' lower loyalty to the brand, with mostly prepaid connections driving higher customer churn. The Covid-19 lockdown measures increased connectivity and digital services demand, leading to a growing customer base, offset by the personal disposable income uncertainty and increasing concerns on the affordability of data, pressuring down prices, with a negative impact on the ARPU. Our predictions for this market take into consideration its high level of uncertainty, regarding consumers purchasing power and willingness to pay, as well as their response to digital interaction platforms.

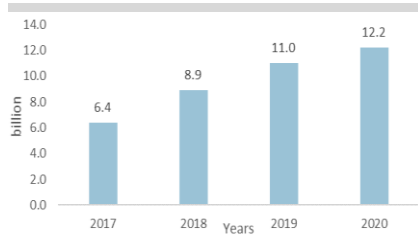
**Vodacom**

Vodafone holds 60.5% of Vodacom, the remaining being owned by Telkom, operating mainly in South Africa, and also Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Lesotho and Kenya, covering over 289 million people, providing business managed services to companies in 51 countries, through Vodacom Business Africa, and having developed M-Pesa platform, together with the Kenyan associate Safaricom<sup>43</sup>. After the lockdown in South Africa, data traffic rose between 35% and 60% in most networks and data costs dropped<sup>44</sup>. The Covid-19 has damaged public and private sector capacity to fix Africa's wide infrastructure gaps and contributed to a further slowdown in 5G progress. Despite

<sup>43</sup> "Vodacom Group simplifies structure; creates Vodacom South Africa as standalone", Vodafone News, 2020

<sup>44</sup> Mhlanga & Moloi, 2020

**Exhibit 77 – M-Pesa transaction volume**

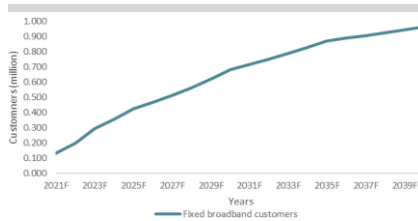


Source: Vodafone Annual Spreadsheets

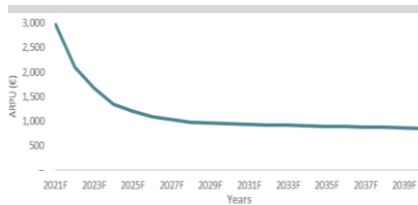
**Orange is considering the opportunity to enter the South African market, around FY22, a possible competitive threat to Vodacom.**

Source: Reuters, 2020

**Exhibit 78 – Vodacom Fixed Customers**

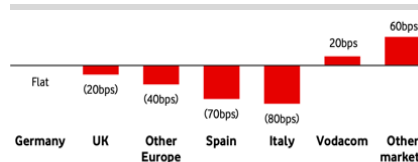


**Exhibit 79 – Vodacom Fixed ARPU**



Source: Analysts Estimations

**Exhibit 80 – Contribution to Q1 FY21 SR growth**



Source: Vodafone's presentation Q1 FY21

regulatory and macro pressures, the Group's service revenue raised, with a South African growth in service revenues, given voice usage and data traffic growth, benefiting from improved pricing combined with a new wholesale roaming agreement. In FY20, Vodacom's total mobile customer base in South Africa decreased to 45.1 million, adding 246000 contract customers but losing 1.9 million prepaid customers (Exhibit 76). International operations grew, given the increasing demand for mobile data and M-Pesa services. (Exhibit 77).

In FY21, competition in digital financial services is intensifying, with Telkom entering the sector and MTN offering a substitute to M-Pesa. Vodacom reduced monthly data bundle prices by up to 40%, after a 50% reduction in data price in the last two years, following an agreement with the Competition Commission. Vodacom's platform ConnectU gives free internet basic access and cheaper pricing to communities in need to support education and healthcare, all backing a declining ARPU. Nonetheless, during FY21, Vodacom service revenue will grow due to South African increased demand for voice, data and financial services, supported by a slight rise in consumer discretionary spend, resulting from the alcohol and tobacco ban during the pandemic, partially offset by revenue drop in international operations, reflecting free M-Pesa transfers in some countries. There was also an increase in contract customers, reinforced by remote working, although, in later 2019, only 45% of the Sub-Saharan Africa population subscribed to mobile services, due to mobile internet adoption major constraints, such as smartphones high cost, limited digital skills amid rural and less literate population<sup>45</sup>. However, we expect a higher smartphone penetration rate throughout the years, rising the number of customers, boosted by Vodafone's continuous infrastructure investment.

Regarding the recent fixed market, the current focus on its development has led to a sharp rise in the number of fixed customers, which we forecast to be around 108% in FY21, however, with the converged regulatory regime intensifying competition, allowing many alternative service suppliers to enter the market, it stabilizes in the future. Consumers spending on telcos services and devices is being pressured from the pandemic impact on increasing unemployment and resulting lower disposable income, declining ARPU, with a mirrored effect from customers' trend.

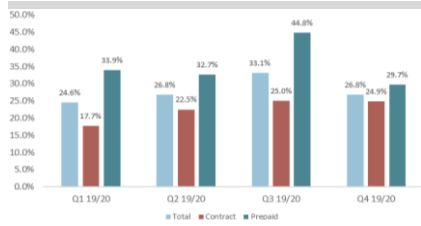
**Other Markets**

Other markets (Turkey, Egypt, Ghana) have made the larger contribution to the Q1FY21 short run growth (Exhibit 80). In Turkey, service revenues increased given growing mobile data revenue and fixed line customer base increase. Following

<sup>45</sup> "Mobile Economy", GSMA, 2020

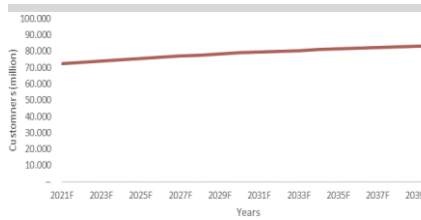


**Exhibit 81– Turkey Mobile Customer Churn**

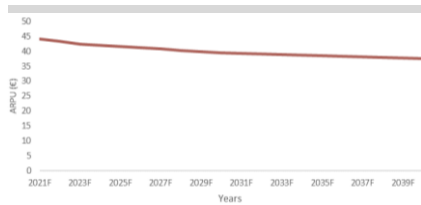


Source: Vodafone Annual Spreadsheets

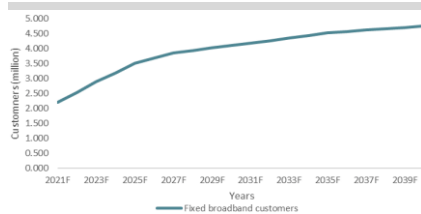
**Exhibit 82–Other Markets Mobile Customers**



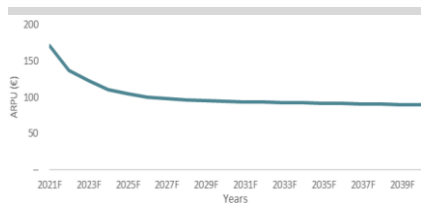
**Exhibit 83 – Other Markets Mobile ARPU**



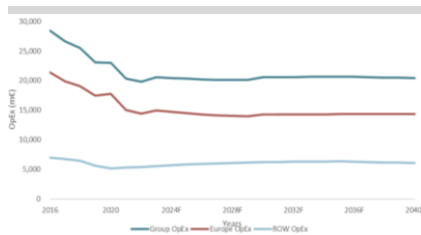
**Exhibit 84–Other Markets Fixed Customers**



**Exhibit 85 – Other Markets Fixed ARPU**



**Exhibit 86 – Operating Expenses**



Source: Analysts Estimations

the tendency, the prepaid churn rate surpassed the contract churn rate in every quarter of FY20 (Exhibit 81). Vodafone’s main competitors in Turkey are TurkCell, and Türk Telekom, with the sector ensuring over 93% of LTE coverage for the population with its fixed and mobile structure strengthening its Smart Cities Strategy.

Egypt service revenue increased during the year, mainly due to customer base expansion and data usage growth. Egypt has one of the bigger mobile telco markets in Africa, with a high penetration rate (95%) and intensive competition. It has been provided with unified licences to let operators offer fixed and mobile services, and the effective competition leads to low prices.

Overall Other Markets’ ARPU is under pressure, given rising competition and economic pressures, though, offset by its importance for the daily lives of citizens, originating a steady yet reduced increase in subscriptions.

**Operating Expenses**

The firm has been improving its cost base structure by lowering net operating expenses. From FY19 to FY21, more than 10% of the Group’s retail stores were eliminated, given digitalization of distribution channels. It has also been investing in direct marketing via internet and My Vodafone app, supporting OpEx decreasing trend. Even though 5G is more cost-efficient than 4G, upgrade is unlikely to make a huge difference to the overall operating costs, as labour costs and other overheads represent most operating expenses, thus, the true benefit comes from packing more data into bundles. Network sharing agreements are also a huge opportunity to cut costs, while contributing to a more efficient deployment of 5G networks, as there is little to be gained competitively from duplicating costs and resources on mobile infrastructure once networks reach almost full coverage. Finally, with VT, Vodafone’s operating expenses will be reduced, given implied lower energy and maintenance expenses<sup>46</sup> (Exhibit 86).

In FY20, Vodafone UK reduced operating expenses, partnered with O2, decreasing deployment costs, and did some cost reallocations from CapEx to cost of sales, following its new cloud partnership with IBM. Also, Vodafone may suffer delays of 5G rollout given the UK government’s ban of Huawei 5G equipment in future networks, implying delayed decreases in operating expenses. In FY21, the company’s new OpenRAN technology, allows for a diversifying supply of telco equipment, and sharing cell sites, and will enable greater flexibility, reducing risks and encouraging competition, and thus innovation, aiming to keep the cost of sourcing products and services low<sup>47</sup>. With

<sup>46</sup> Vantage Towers Capital Markets Day, Vodafone, 2020

<sup>47</sup> “OpenRAN: Why Vodafone is taking the lead”, Vodafone UK News Centre, 2020

**Vodafone shared its thoughts that competition will still drive good value for its customers, having no plans to reintroduce roaming charges, to preserve its customer base, which may imply further costs to maintain the free roaming, depending on its deals with EU counterparts.**

Source: BBC News, 2020

Brexit, it is expected that in early 2021 the assurance of free mobile phone roaming will end, and UK operators will be charged to provide roaming services to their customers, since rates will not be regulated anymore. UK is the only European country in which we forecast an increase in cost of sales in FY21. In Germany and CEE, Liberty's acquisition will originate cost savings, and in Italy, there were lower operating expenses and commercial costs. In Spain, in H1FY21, 20% of its retail stores closed, 2/3 of customer calls were handled by TOBi, and there were lower football content costs, reducing operating expenses, partially offset by new series and movies offers. Overall, we assumed European countries will follow a downward trend relating to costs, mainly justified by digitalization, network sharing agreements and Liberty's purchase.

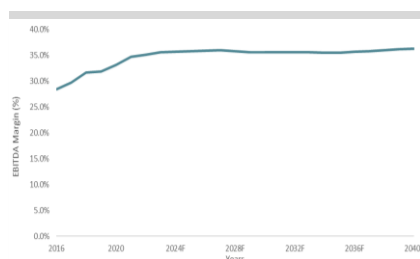
Regarding Rest of the World, in FY20, Vodacom's operating costs grew, slower than revenues, and roaming costs grew as well. In some years ahead, we assume the adoption of FWA, against limited availability of fixed services, creates a cost-efficient broadband alternative delivered over 4G or 5G, driving increased capacity through greater spectrum allocations and a higher network efficiency in terms of the cost per gigabyte<sup>17</sup>. Hence, costs are forecasted to slightly increase in the near future, at a lower rate, until assuming a decreasing trend.

**Exhibit 87 – EBITDA Margin (%)**

Adjusted EBITDA margin	ΔYoY FY20 (Δ%/points)	ΔHoH H1FY21 (Δ%/points)
Germany	2.8%	2.6%
Italy	-0.2%	-5.5%
UK	1.4%	-1.8%
Spain	1.3%	0.3%
Other Europe	-0.3%	-0.2%
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Vodacom	-1.9%	-1.0%
Other Markets	0.6%	-4.4%
<b>Group</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>

Source: Annual Reports & Report H1 FY21

**Exhibit 88 – EBITDA Margin Forecast (%)**



Source: Analysts Estimations

### EBITDA Margin

In FY20, the Group delivered an increase in all EBITDA margins (Exhibit 87), except for Italy, Other Europe and Vodacom. In FY20, the Group presents an EBITDA margin of 33.1%, against the European industry average<sup>48</sup> of 40.2%, supporting Vodafone's more unprofitable results, laying behind its peers. For the future, given previous revenues and costs' analysis, EBITDA margin is set to increase at a decreasing rate (Exhibit 88).

### Taxes

As the Group operates worldwide, we decided to incorporate a blended tax rate to consider the profits from each region and its different statutory tax rate, estimating the % of adjusted operating profit per region, assuming that profit per region is equivalent to the profit booked per region. As the distribution of profit in the last 2 years does not vary significantly and as it is not expected any major impact on the future tax charge, this method is considerate appropriate, reaching a total statutory tax rate of 27.3%.

<sup>48</sup> Bloomberg: European Incumbent Telecom Average Adjusted EBITDA Margin (%), 2020

## Balance Sheet

### ***Goodwill***

Vodafone presents a high value of Goodwill, especially since FY20, due to the acquisition of Liberty, partially offset by impairment charges concerning some investments, mainly due to challenging economic conditions and intensified competition. Assuming the company will not perform significant acquisitions and disposals in the future, focusing mainly on the two main markets' development, we expect goodwill to remain constant, only decreasing by yearly impairments' amount. However, there is an exception in FY21, given VT's IPO, with an overall decrease of 5% in European Goodwill being assumed, for simplification purposes, representing the amount of previously owned towers, now sold and not leased back, resulting in a positive impact in Europe's FCFs, with a lower Investing CF in FY21, in Europe, as a result of the major disinvestment.

### ***Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities***

Under IFRS 16, a lessee is now required to recognise a "Right-of-use asset" under PPE, representing its right to use the respective leased asset, and "Lease liabilities" representing its lease payments obligation. The immediate impact of this adoption was an increase in both accounts, of €10.2 billion in right-of-use assets and €10.0 billion in lease liabilities, on 1 April 2019. Right-of-use assets and Lease Liabilities are expected to increase by the leased back towers' value from VT, while owned PPE is reduced by the total amount of towers sold. While Right-of-use assets' depreciation does not affect the Enterprise valuation of Vodafone, the change in Lease Liabilities will be reflected as an increase in the overall Net Debt, impacting the Equity value.

### ***Assets and Liabilities held for sale***

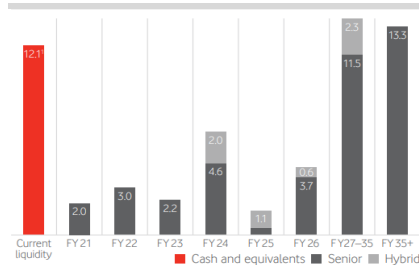
The Group considers as available for sale its 24.95% interest in Vodafone Hutchison Australia and the 55% interest in Vodafone Egypt, during FY20. Assets and liabilities held for sale balance is thus expected to be maintained in the next two years, and later expected to reach €0, assuming the future sale of both holdings, in FY22, which will be included in the Excess Cash account.

### ***Deferred Tax Assets and Liabilities***

Vodafone recognizes substantial figures regarding DTA and DTL. In FY20, the more considerable amount of the DTA refers to Luxembourg (€20544 million) and Germany (€2662 million), both projected to continue generating taxable profits, enabling the Group to use past losses' deferred tax assets, which do not expire. DTA derive mainly from tax losses and DTL results from a difference in the fiscal and accounting pace of depreciation, expected to start decreasing at a certain

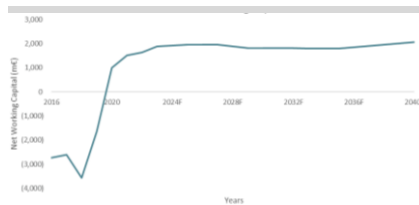
point. After analysing its similar historical values, except for FY20, in which DTL increased mainly due to Liberty’s acquired non-tax-deductible intangible assets, we assume a 10% decreasing rate, each year, for both captions.

**Exhibit 89 – Bond Maturity Profile (€billion)**

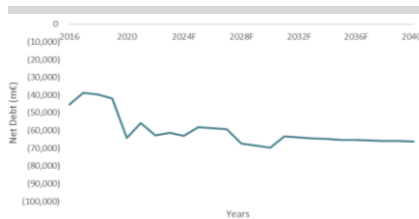


Source: Annual Report 2020

**Exhibit 90 – Net Working Capital Forecast**



**Exhibit 91 – Net Debt Forecast**



Source: Analysts Estimations

**Net Debt**

Net Debt’s value is €64 billion at the end of FY20, significantly higher than €42 billion in FY19, mainly reflecting debt of €18.5 billion and cash outflows in relation to Liberty assets’ acquisition, spectrum accruals and cash payments of €1.7 billion mostly relating to 5G spectrum acquisitions in Germany, dividends of €2.3 billion, and the completed buyback for convertible bonds issued in 2016 of €1.1 billion. Vodafone keeps a positive liquidity position, having doubled the average debt maturity to 12 years, having no significant short-term refinancing obligations (Exhibit 89), focusing on deleveraging, while having an increased Net Working Capital ratio (Exhibit 90). In FY21, a considerable cash inflow was added to the Excess Cash account considering the impact of VT’s IPO, as well as yearly dividends paid by the new firm, respecting its policy to pay out 60% of its recurring cash flow as dividends. Such will contribute to a decrease in overall Net Debt, offsetting a slight increase in total borrowings from the smaller growth in lease liabilities and by excluding the past year’s "Bank borrowings secured against Indian assets", having a positive impact on that year’s share price. In the next few years, we forecast Total Borrowings as 65% of Invested Capital, due to continuous 5G roll-out, followed by a small decrease in that %, partially offset by the yearly Excess Cash account, stabilizing in FY22, at a 10% of Invested Capital, following FY19’s reality. Also, a further increase in Total Borrowings was considered, from FY28 to FY30, with the deployment of 6G, decreasing afterwards, until stabilizing in FY31 as 55% of Invested Capital.

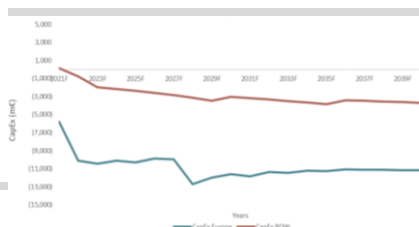
**Cash Flow Map**

**CapEx**

PPE and Other Intangibles are estimated jointly, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization, and are forecasted as the % of Net PPE and Other Intangibles of the respective segment.

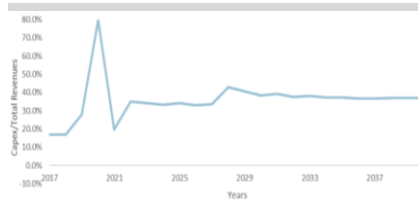
In Europe, Vodafone has heavily invested in its networks, in the past few years, due to 4G deployment, and we expect investment in 5G to be substantially higher than past generations, since Vodafone needs extra wireless spectrum, greater fiber backhauled, and significant towers’ access to deliver its benefits, all very costly. It is also necessary to roll-out gigabit networks to meet fixed customers demand<sup>49</sup>. For FY21, given VT’s IPO, and similarly to Goodwill, an overall

**Exhibit 92 – Capex Forecast**



Source: Analysts Estimations

<sup>49</sup>“Vodafone’s Network Infrastructure-Sharing a Smart Move Ahead of 5G”, Fitch&Ratings, 2019

**Exhibit 93 – Total Capital Expenditure  
share of Total Revenues (%) Forecast**

Source: Analysts Estimations

decrease of 5% in European PPE&Other Intangibles was assumed. Due to IFRS 16, the major decrease in owned PPE is offset by an also substantial increase in the Right-of-Use Assets. In the short run, we expect the abovementioned significant investment regarding 5G and fiber deployment, and afterwards a decreasing trend until 2028. 6G development is assumed to begin in 2028, triggering a higher investment rate, decreasing afterwards, stabilizing its growth at 0.2%. The CapEx/Revenues ratio (Exhibit 93) stabilizes at around 37% in FY34.

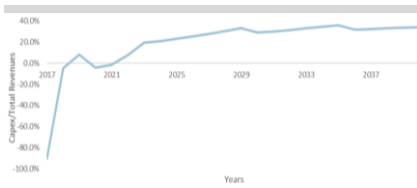
In Germany and CEE, due to Liberty's acquisition, the share of total PPE & Other Intangibles increased and is expected to slightly decrease in the first years due to CapEx savings. Vodafone UK is under pressure to comply with Government's deadline for the removal of Huawei's 5G equipment by the end of 2027, assumed to be followed by the rest of European countries, supporting high CapEx for this segment. In FY21, Vodafone will remove Huawei from its core network, and it also uses Huawei kit in its RAN<sup>50</sup>, more expensive to replace, which will do by installing OpenRAN, implying high capital expenditures, while reducing hardware costs. UK regulator Ofcom will still hold a 5G spectrum auction in early 2021, rejecting calls from operators suggesting a direct allocation process rather than a traditional sale, in which Vodafone is assumed to participate, however struggling with extra costs. As Spain decided to postpone the auction of the 5G spectrum to allocate additional spectrum, we assume it will happen in near future.

For the ROW, Vodafone will focus on driving digital transformation to become a low-cost operator, while limiting spend. The region faces various challenges due to the, so far, insufficient solutions facing inconstant power supply and low purchasing power. With the increased demand, Vodafone will continue investing in network upgrades. Also, the new fixed market still requires major investments in infrastructure, such as towers and fiber, extremely costly to develop. Hence, FWA is an alternative to provide broadband in low population density areas, not covered by fixed broadband services, as it involves fewer heavy investments, driven by digital services demand along with government subsidies. Nokia will enable 5G services for Vodacom's customers, by offering such solutions<sup>51</sup>. The Group will also continue the rollout of 4G, followed by 5G's deployment assumed to begin until 2030. Turkey remains ahead, continuing to invest in 5G, with considerable trials being supported by Ericsson and Huawei, as well as in fiber broadband networks. In FY20, Vodafone signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Saudi Telecom relating to the sale of its 55% holding in Vodafone Egypt, for €2.2 billion, but it has expired before reaching a consensus

<sup>50</sup> "Vodafone UK sees Open RAN as a way to 'close the digital divide'", RCR Wireless News, 2020

<sup>51</sup> "Nokia enables ultra-fast 5G services for Vodacom South Africa customers with 5G radio, core and fixed wireless access", GlobeNewswire, 2020

**Exhibit 94–Total Capital Expenditure share of Total Revenues (%) Forecast ROW**



Source: Analysts Estimations

from both parties, with dialogue remaining open, and assumed to be fully concluded in FY22, implying a decrease of 5% in this segment’s PPE&OI. ROW will involve significant investments until FY29, as the business is still in an earlier phase than in Europe, requiring major developments to build a strong infrastructure, to meet increasing demand. Afterwards, the yearly increase of PPE&OI will decline, stabilizing at 2% in FY36. Regarding the CapEx/Revenues ratio (Exhibit 94), it will stabilize at around 34% in FY39.

**Change in Net Working Capital**

Operational cash, inventory and trade and other receivables are forecasted as a % of the Group’s total revenues, and trade and other payables, as a % of the Group’s total costs. Thus, the revenues’ decrease from the loss of rental income originated by the towers’ disposal, as well as the forecasted decrease in operating expenses, are implicit in the overall change in NWC, along the years, having a positive impact in Europe’s FCFs, as a decrease in Investing CFs.

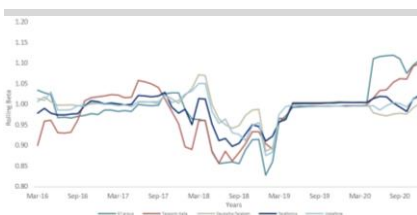
**Exhibit 95 – Valuation Assumptions**

Valuation Assumptions	
March 31, 2022	
Statutory Tax Rate	27.30%
Risk Free rate	-0.13%
Average MRP	6.75%
D/E (target)	90.0%
D/V (target)	47%
Beta unlevered	0.457
Beta Debt	0.141
Beta Relevered	0.742
Unlevered Cost of Capital	2.96%
Cost of Equity	4.88%
Rating for Vodafone	BBB
Probability of Default (5y)	2.35%
Loss given default	60%
YTM	2.24%
Cost of Debt	0.83%
WACC	2.85%

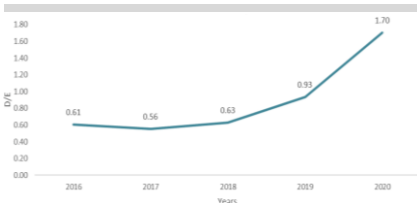
**VALUATION ASSUMPTIONS**

We used a common WACC to discount future Free Cash Flows for both Europe and ROW since Europe represents around 75% of the group’s sales, and because WACC represents the systematic risk, through beta, while cash flows from Europe and ROW bear different idiosyncratic risks. To estimate the cost of equity of 4.88%, we applied the CAPM model. The estimated risk-free rate was -0.13%<sup>52</sup> and the market risk premium 6.75%<sup>53</sup>. Vodafone’s return was regressed against a well-diversified market portfolio<sup>54</sup>, obtaining the adjusted  $\beta$  of 0.9891, indicating the company’s strong correlation with the market index, with a narrow 95% confidence interval, 0.9888 to 1.0032, and a small standard error (0.0036), indicating high accuracy. Also, to reduce the effect of idiosyncratic shocks, we studied the industry’s unlevered beta median (0.413) based on the peer’s group<sup>55</sup>, which is relatively similar to Vodafone’s unlevered beta (0.457), indicating similar operating risks among them. Vodafone’s rolling beta (Exhibit 96) is behaving in a stable way, right before the Covid-19 outbreak, in March 2020, expecting the same stable trend will return in the near future, after this atypical period is overcome, backing our decision to use the calculated historical beta. All these factors support the good comparableness between firms. To estimate the cost of debt, we used a representative long-term bond<sup>56</sup> of the Group, maturing in 2037, with a coupon rate of 2.88% issued at 98.23%, with a current yield to

**Exhibit 96 – Rolling Beta**



**Exhibit 97 – Historical D/E**



Source: Analysts Estimations

<sup>52</sup> 30-year AAA Government Euro Bonds spot rate, Euro area yield curves, ECB  
<sup>53</sup> “Equity Market Risk Premium - Research Summary”, KPMG, 2020  
<sup>54</sup> MSCI World in euros, investing.com  
<sup>55</sup> BT Group, Telecom Italia, Deutsche Telekom and Telefonica  
<sup>56</sup> Bonds outstanding (EU and US), Vodafone website

Exhibit 98 – ROIC Forecast

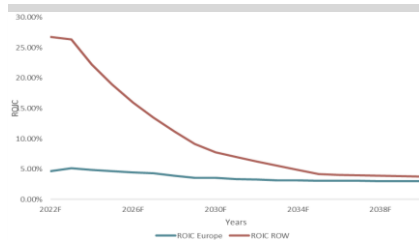


Exhibit 99 – RONIC Forecast

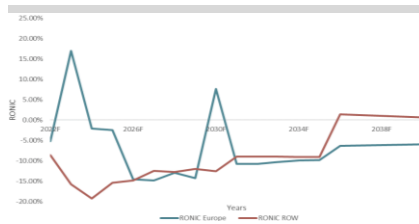


Exhibit 100 – RR Forecast



Exhibit 101 – Growth Rate Forecast

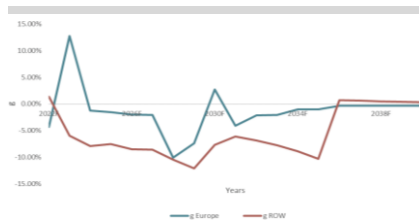


Exhibit 102 – Sensitivity Analysis

	Region	MIN	MAX
0.5% error in RONIC and RR leading to a growth rate	Europe	-0.47%	-0.23%
	Rest of the World	-0.20%	0.03%
0.1% error in after-tax cost of debt and 1% error in D/V leading to a WACC	Group	2.69%	3.99%
0.2% error in growth rate and WACC leading to a DCF (in € millions)	Europe	56382.53	145218.01
	Rest of the World	10923.81	21336.81
0.2% error in growth rate and WACC leading to a share price (in €)	Europe	1.14	3.93
	Rest of the World	1.83	2.15

Exhibit 103 – Scenario Analysis Result

	31.03.2022
Enterprise Value (m€)	95788
Non core assets/liabilities (m€)	28529
Net Debt (m€)	62864
Equity Value (m€)	61453
#Shares outstanding	31827
Price per Share (€)	1.93
EPS (€)	-0.05
<b>Expected Capital Gain</b>	
Price target 2022 (€)(from DCF)	1.93
Price target 2022 (€)(from Scenario Analysis)	1.92
Current Share Price (€)	1.38
Expected Capital Gain (%)	39.21%
<b>Expected Cash Gain</b>	
Dividend yield (%)	7.03%
Expected Cash Gain (%)	7.03%
<b>Expected Capital Gain + Cash Gain (%)</b>	<b>46.24%</b>
<b>12 month Expected Capital Gain + Cash Gain (%)</b>	<b>35.54%</b>
Cost of Equity	4.88%
Recommendation	BUY

Source: Analysts Estimations

maturity of 2.24%<sup>57</sup>. To account for the default scenario, we also used the probability of default (2.35%<sup>57</sup>) and the loss given default (60%<sup>57</sup>), according to the Group’s BBB credit rating, which led to a *rd* of 0.83%. Afterwards, we considered a targeted lower D/E of 0.9, comparing to the high historical one for FY20 (1.70) (Exhibit 97), mainly due to Liberty’s acquisition, following the Group’s capital allocation priorities, accomplished with the VT’s IPO. We assume the ratio will be closer to the FY19 value, before the major acquisition in FY20, and considering the beginning of spectrum investments in FY19, as we believe Vodafone will still bear large investments regarding 5G, 6G, and fiber deployment, in the upcoming years. Finally, considering the constant target capital structure and tax rate, during the forecasted years, we maintain a stable WACC of 2.85%.

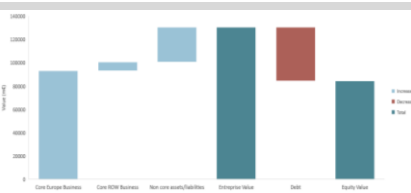
## VALUATION OUTCOME

### Discounted Cash Flows

From the DCF, the FY22 valuation resulted to be approximately €124317 million Enterprise Value, by estimating the Core Unlevered Free Cash Flows, from both Europe and ROW, and considering the respective Non-Core Assets/Liabilities value. We predict an overall conversion between NOPLAT and Invested Capital, across the Group’s geographical segments, with return on investments being reduced, characterized by the continuous high capital intensity, with required high network investments, combined with the ongoing strong competition and pressure on prices. This results in a positive decreasing ROIC in both markets (Exhibit 98), indicating a reduced efficiency in allocating capital to profitable investments, but always surpassing WACC, meaning capital is still used effectively. As such, we believe the company is mainly on a path of value loss, with RONIC mostly negative (Exhibit 99), supporting Invested Capital growth while NOPLAT is mostly reduced, and RR assuming a contrary effect (Exhibit 100), resulting in a negative perpetual growth rate for Europe (Exhibit 101), which, according to Damodaran, is usual for a mature market, reaching its steady state in FY39 (g=-0.34%). On the other hand, regarding the ROW segment, an overturn is expected since FY36, with the business receiving its return from past heavy investments translated into a positive growth rate, later reaching its steady state in FY46 (g=0%). The Group’s FCFs vary a lot in Europe, throughout the years, while mainly decreasing in the ROW, due to higher uncertainty. An Equity Value of €61453 million was reached, and by considering mandatory convertible bonds maturing in FY21 and FY22, the number of the outstanding shares will

<sup>57</sup> Bloomberg

**Exhibit 104 – Waterfall Value in million €**



Source: Analysts Estimations

increase, attaining a target price per share of €1.93 in FY22. Afterwards, the scenario analysis was applied, with the respective probabilities, reaching a final target price per share of €1.92 in FY22, from a range between €1.51 and €2.29, with a total shareholder return of 35.54%, supporting the idea that Vodafone is currently undervalued (Exhibit 103).

### Multiples

For the comparison between peers, a group of the most similar companies to Vodafone Group Plc, within the same industry, was selected, as well as Vodafone Group Plc itself. In this case, because Vodafone operates mainly in Europe, such group is composed by BT Group Plc, Deutsche Telekom AG, Telefonica SA, and Telecom Italia SA, all strong operators in the European market, with presence in other regions as well. The average, minimum and maximum multiples<sup>57</sup> calculated based on the group selected were then compared to the DCF estimation. The P/E average multiple originated a €2.07 share price, with an expected total return of 43.21%, which corroborates the DCF recommendation to BUY. However, the P/E ratio has some shortfalls, as it considers Net Income, which, in the case of Vodafone, is low and sometimes negative, when compared to the selected peers, implying a higher multiple. EV/EBITDA may be more appropriate, leading to a projected share price of €1.26 and expected total return of -1.52%, however, it goes against our recommendation to BUY. We believe this happens as the values are referent to 2020 and, according to our forecasts, the EV is believed to grow in the next two years, while EBITDA decreases, leading to a higher multiple in FY21 and FY22.

**Exhibit 105 – Average Multiples**

	Vodafone	Average of Peers
P/E	18.82	11.33
EV/EBITDA	6.26	5.46

Source: Bloomberg





Forecasted Balance Sheet

USD Millions	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021F	2022F	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	2033F	2034F	2035F	2036F	2037F	2038F	2039F	2040F		
<b>Non Invested Capital</b>																											
<b>Assets</b>																											
Intangible assets	56,964	46,320	43,257	41,005	53,523	30,572	32,881	34,000	35,547	37,937	36,612	38,333	40,620	41,634	42,449	43,102	43,575	44,063	44,567	45,086	45,523	45,973	46,441	46,700	46,963		
Goodwill	28,280	26,608	26,734	23,383	31,271	12,647	13,836	15,025	16,213	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	17,402	
Cost	50,993	39,221	38,973	38,963	59,963	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	79,520	
Impairment losses	(6,762)	(8,413)	(81,716)	(88,276)	(87,720)	(69,003)	(66,614)	(44,226)	(43,207)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	(41,946)	
% Cost goodwill	70.7%	70.3%	70.3%	70.2%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	
<b>Other intangible assets</b>	32,268	19,412	15,523	17,622	22,252	17,925	18,845	18,975	19,124	20,535	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	21,210	
% Other intangible assets and PPE	46.1%	39.1%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	36.2%	
Loans and Spectrum fees	23,845	13,821	11,420	12,602	12,207	10,727	9,945	10,229	10,646	11,081	11,445	11,821	12,208	12,597	12,987	13,377	13,767	14,156	14,546	14,936	15,326	15,716	16,106	16,496	16,886	17,276	
Cost	28,780	71,376	68,176	74,266	74,266	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	64,976	
Accumulated amortisation	(4,935)	(30,775)	(28,779)	(31,806)	(32,012)	(24,970)	(25,236)	(26,746)	(27,294)	(28,893)	(29,537)	(30,181)	(30,825)	(31,469)	(32,113)	(32,757)	(33,401)	(34,045)	(34,689)	(35,333)	(35,977)	(36,621)	(37,265)	(37,909)	(38,553)	(39,197)	
% Cost Loans and Spectrum fees	61.8%	55.1%	60.7%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	61.0%	
Computer software	4,882	4,814	4,692	4,672	4,674	4,607	4,678	4,741	4,811	4,890	4,911	4,981	5,051	5,121	5,191	5,261	5,331	5,401	5,471	5,541	5,611	5,681	5,751	5,821	5,891	5,961	
% Other intangible assets	16.8%	24.6%	23.9%	26.2%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	25.4%	
Accumulated amortisation	10,729	16,562	17,413	17,209	16,584	15,241	13,986	14,646	15,127	15,741	16,259	16,807	17,388	17,969	18,550	19,131	19,712	20,293	20,874	21,455	22,036	22,617	23,198	23,779	24,360	24,941	
Cost	(10,027)	(12,148)	(12,641)	(12,123)	(11,820)	(9,704)	(9,007)	(8,004)	(7,076)	(6,151)	(5,226)	(4,301)	(3,376)	(2,451)	(1,526)	(621)	(326)	(31)	374	859	1,344	1,829	2,314	2,799	3,284	3,769	
% Cost Computer software	69.9%	71.6%	72.9%	71.1%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	70.9%	
Other	1,679	777	221	73	1,277	426	432	465	474	484	524	584	644	704	764	824	884	944	1,004	1,064	1,124	1,184	1,244	1,304	1,364	1,424	
% Other intangible assets	5.8%	4.0%	1.4%	0.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	
Cost	7,446	7,340	7,346	7,167	12,411	8,988	10,776	10,963	11,066	11,463	11,860	12,257	12,654	13,051	13,448	13,845	14,242	14,639	15,036	15,433	15,830	16,227	16,624	17,021	17,418	17,815	
Accumulated amortisation	(6,767)	(8,663)	(8,116)	(7,114)	(7,140)	(2,922)	(4,084)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	(4,088)	
% Cost Other	77.9%	89.3%	89.3%	89.3%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%	
Property, plant and equipment	35,615	30,254	28,325	27,452	38,197	33,675	32,109	34,614	34,911	38,173	37,862	39,623	40,886	42,647	44,408	46,169	47,930	49,691	51,452	53,213	54,974	56,735	58,496	60,257	62,018	63,779	
% Other intangible assets and PPE	53.9%	61.0%	63.2%	65.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	63.8%	
Right of use assets																											
Property, plant and equipment (owned assets)	35,615	30,254	28,325	27,452	38,197	33,675	32,109	34,614	34,911	38,173	37,862	39,623	40,886	42,647	44,408	46,169	47,930	49,691	51,452	53,213	54,974	56,735	58,496	60,257	62,018		
Land and buildings	1,552	1,125	1,090	1,074	955	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836
% Property, plant and equipment (owned assets)	4.3%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	2,389	2,366	2,229	2,267	2,201	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	
% Cost Land and buildings	15.7%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	
Equipment, fixtures and fittings	34,363	29,079	27,265	26,418	28,564	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	26,839	
% Property, plant and equipment (owned assets)	99.7%	96.3%	96.4%	96.1%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	
Cost	74,486	68,204	66,520	71,362	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	70,522	
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(40,223)	(38,130)	(40,260)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	(44,844)	
% Cost Equipment, fixtures and fittings	54.9%	67.4%	69.7%	63.0%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	
Non-current Taxa and other receivables	1,703	4,589	3,678	3,116	2,116	917	893	930	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	929	
% Investment	11.8%	14.6%	13.0%	11.8%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	23.1%	
Inventory	716	576	591	714	585	499	466	503	500	499	465	462	462	463	463	463	463	463	463	463	463	463	463	463	463	463	
Accounting Holding Period	11,651	8,811	8,153	8,511	9,018	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	
Current Taxa and other receivables	11,651	8,811	8,153	8,511	9,018	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	9,518	
Average Collection Period	187.1	151.4	152.3	157.2	161.9																						

Forecasted Cash Flow Map

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021F	2022F	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	2033F	2034F	2035F	2036F	2037F	2038F	2039F	2040F
at 31 March	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
<b>Core</b>																									
<b>Europe</b>																									
EBIT	6480	6329	6550	6412	7240	7302	7094	7971	7842	7895	7534	7268	6866	6519	6000	6416	6321	6231	6140	6048	6004	5960	5916	5873	5820
Taxes	-4987	-4927	-495	-3691	-2640	-2663	-2587	-2907	-2806	-2747	-2687	-2504	-2377	-2407	-2340	-2305	-2272	-2239	-2205	-2189	-2173	-2158	-2142	-2126	-2110
<b>NOPLAT</b>	<b>1493</b>	<b>1403</b>	<b>5765</b>	<b>2721</b>	<b>4600</b>	<b>4639</b>	<b>4507</b>	<b>5064</b>	<b>4982</b>	<b>4899</b>	<b>4787</b>	<b>4681</b>	<b>4362</b>	<b>4142</b>	<b>4194</b>	<b>4076</b>	<b>4016</b>	<b>3959</b>	<b>3901</b>	<b>3842</b>	<b>3815</b>	<b>3787</b>	<b>3759</b>	<b>3731</b>	<b>3703</b>
Depreciation and Amortisation	8561	8344	8181	8239	8803	7049	7257	7474	7698	7928	8087	8261	8661	8921	9188	9372	9466	9561	9656	9753	9802	9851	9900	9949	9999
<b>Operating CFs</b>	<b>10044</b>	<b>9747</b>	<b>13946</b>	<b>10960</b>	<b>13403</b>	<b>11688</b>	<b>11765</b>	<b>12538</b>	<b>12680</b>	<b>12817</b>	<b>12874</b>	<b>12930</b>	<b>13023</b>	<b>13062</b>	<b>13382</b>	<b>13448</b>	<b>13482</b>	<b>13519</b>	<b>13557</b>	<b>13595</b>	<b>13616</b>	<b>13637</b>	<b>13659</b>	<b>13680</b>	<b>13702</b>
- Capex	(5,802)	(5,743)	(8,958)	(26,931)	3,405	(8,512)	(8,378)	(9,029)	(9,299)	(9,028)	(9,209)	(11,109)	(10,463)	(10,777)	(10,463)	(10,022)	(10,123)	(10,224)	(10,326)	(10,091)	(10,141)	(10,192)	(10,243)	(10,294)	(10,345)
- change Goodwill	1,430	74	111	(9,603)	17,435	(2,378)	(2,378)	(2,378)	(2,378)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- change NWC	-103	704	-1389	-1961	-376	-85	-195	-30	-24	-20	-15	54	-2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Investment CFs	(4,475)	(4,965)	(10,236)	(38,495)	20,462	(10,975)	(11,339)	(11,430)	(11,700)	(9,046)	(9,224)	(11,650)	(10,406)	(10,779)	(10,460)	(10,019)	(10,120)	(10,221)	(10,323)	(10,131)	(10,181)	(10,232)	(10,283)	(10,334)	(10,385)
<b>FCFs Core Europe Business</b>	<b>5272</b>	<b>8981</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>-2592</b>	<b>32159</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>1244</b>	<b>1117</b>	<b>3825</b>	<b>3706</b>	<b>1968</b>	<b>2654</b>	<b>2603</b>	<b>2988</b>	<b>3463</b>	<b>3400</b>	<b>3338</b>	<b>3272</b>	<b>3468</b>	<b>3427</b>	<b>3397</b>	<b>3367</b>	<b>3337</b>	<b>3308</b>
<b>Rest of the world (including Other and Eliminations)</b>																									
EBIT	3668	3721	3821	3826	4026	3354	3400	3208	2973	2764	2548	2347	2125	1895	1761	1660	1553	1441	1324	1200	1119	1030	934	934	932
Taxes	-2822	-2896	-508	-2202	-1468	-1223	-1240	-1170	-1084	-1008	-929	-856	-775	-691	-642	-605	-566	-526	-483	-437	-408	-376	-341	-340	-340
<b>NOPLAT</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>3313</b>	<b>1624</b>	<b>2558</b>	<b>2131</b>	<b>2160</b>	<b>2038</b>	<b>1889</b>	<b>1756</b>	<b>1619</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>1119</b>	<b>1054</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>592</b>
Depreciation and Amortisation	1835	1835	1729	1426	1282	1331	1142	1256	1381	1519	1671	1837	2021	2223	2334	2450	2573	2701	2836	2978	3126	3282	3446	3515	3586
<b>Operating CFs</b>	<b>2680</b>	<b>2660</b>	<b>5042</b>	<b>3050</b>	<b>3840</b>	<b>3462</b>	<b>3302</b>	<b>3294</b>	<b>3270</b>	<b>3275</b>	<b>3289</b>	<b>3329</b>	<b>3371</b>	<b>3427</b>	<b>3452</b>	<b>3505</b>	<b>3559</b>	<b>3617</b>	<b>3677</b>	<b>3740</b>	<b>3837</b>	<b>3937</b>	<b>4040</b>	<b>4109</b>	<b>4178</b>
- Capex	11,848	601	(943)	481	163	(770)	(1,980)	(2,145)	(2,362)	(2,594)	(2,854)	(3,139)	(3,454)	(3,822)	(3,163)	(3,321)	(3,487)	(3,661)	(3,844)	(4,035)	(4,236)	(4,448)	(4,670)	(4,903)	(5,146)
- change Goodwill	0	0	(255)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- change NWC	-14	255	-539	-682	-141	-36	-46	-13	-16	-8	-10	-14	-14	7	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Investment CFs	11,834	856	(1,737)	(201)	22	(806)	(2,025)	(2,158)	(2,378)	(2,602)	(2,864)	(3,125)	(3,440)	(3,815)	(3,164)	(3,322)	(3,488)	(3,662)	(3,845)	(4,049)	(4,251)	(4,462)	(4,683)	(4,914)	(5,155)
<b>FCFs Core ROW Business</b>	<b>14494</b>	<b>5898</b>	<b>1313</b>	<b>3639</b>	<b>3484</b>	<b>2496</b>	<b>1269</b>	<b>1111</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-105</b>	<b>-212</b>	<b>-314</b>	<b>-422</b>	<b>-537</b>	<b>-654</b>	<b>-781</b>
<b>FCF Core Business</b>	<b>19766</b>	<b>14879</b>	<b>2037</b>	<b>-21453</b>	<b>35635</b>	<b>3286</b>	<b>2356</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>4513</b>	<b>4170</b>	<b>2214</b>	<b>2641</b>	<b>3040</b>	<b>3329</b>	<b>3701</b>	<b>3517</b>	<b>3329</b>	<b>3351</b>	<b>3167</b>	<b>3273</b>	<b>3142</b>	<b>3004</b>	<b>2854</b>	<b>2707</b>	<b>2562</b>
<b>Non Core</b>																									
Non Operating Income	(8,287)	(9,959)	(7,488)	(14,238)	(6,922)	4,944	(4,865)	(5,164)	(5,241)	(5,239)	(4,027)	(4,016)	(4,005)	(3,995)	(4,087)	(4,086)	(4,118)	(4,144)	(4,131)	(4,144)	(4,153)	(4,162)	(4,171)	(4,181)	(4,191)
National Taxes on Non Operating EBIT	2304	(260)	1937	3637	1899	(1,350)	1338	1410	1431	1430	1099	1096	1093	1091	1116	1118	1122	1124	1128	1131	1134	1136	1139	1141	1144
Other Comprehensive Income	(2,522)	(1,357)	(2,389)	1,758	2,574	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Non Core Result</b>	<b>(8,505)</b>	<b>(8,636)</b>	<b>(7,890)</b>	<b>(8,705)</b>	<b>(2,459)</b>	<b>3,595</b>	<b>(3,537)</b>	<b>(3,755)</b>	<b>(3,810)</b>	<b>(3,809)</b>	<b>(2,938)</b>	<b>(2,920)</b>	<b>(2,912)</b>	<b>(2,905)</b>	<b>(2,971)</b>	<b>(2,978)</b>	<b>(2,985)</b>	<b>(2,994)</b>	<b>(3,003)</b>	<b>(3,013)</b>	<b>(3,019)</b>	<b>(3,026)</b>	<b>(3,033)</b>	<b>(3,039)</b>	<b>(3,047)</b>
Impairment Losses	-	-	-	-	-	3525	1865	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189
Europe	-	-	-	-	-	3270	1865	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189	1189
Rest of the World including Other and Eliminations	-	-	-	-	-	255	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Change in Investment in associates and joint ventures	(2,659)	600	(1,414)	(1,879)	(14,790)	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210
Change in Other investments	389	(2,420)	(1,883)	6,001	919	114	(307)	24	6	37	24	19	(130)	(7)	(7)	(9)	(10)	(10)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Non Current	1,172	255	2,334	78	51	12	(33)	3	1	4	3	3	2	(14)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Current	(783)	(2,675)	(4,217)	5,923	868	102	(275)	22	6	33	22	17	(116)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(9)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Change in deferred tax assets/liabilities	3,977	(1,791)	1,281	2,712	16,100	24	(1,042)	(21)	13	40	58	404	259	(161)	114	30	33	39	45	2	6	10	13	16	16
Change in post employment assets/liabilities	253	(184)	47	(609)	648	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Change in taxation recoverable/liabilities	1,230	(76)	(103)	64	1,026	(909)	35	(40)	(32)	(76)	(32)	(65)	(52)	(13)	(27)	(19)	(20)	(20)	(12)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(15)	
Change in Assets/Liabilities held for sale	(2,182)	2,580	3,052	(787)	0	556	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Change in Provisions	(398)	(223)	446	96	(524)	(32)	87	(7)	(2)	(11)	(7)	(7)	(5)	37	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Non Current	(489)	(65)	177	232	(366)	(18)	49	(4)	(1)	(6)	(4)	(4)	(3)	21	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Current	91	(158)	269	(136)	(158)	(14)	38	(3)	(1)	(5)	(3)	(3)	(2)	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>FCF Non Core Business</b>	<b>-8028</b>	<b>-9404</b>	<b>-3754</b>	<b>4824</b>	<b>9162</b>	<b>-2391</b>	<b>-3578</b>	<b>-3450</b>	<b>-2420</b>	<b>-2570</b>	<b>-2662</b>	<b>-2340</b>	<b>-2469</b>	<b>-3024</b>	<b>-2681</b>	<b>-2764</b>	<b>-2772</b>	<b>-2776</b>	<b>-2781</b>	<b>-2817</b>	<b>-2820</b>	<b>-2824</b>	<b>-2819</b>	<b>-2823</b>	<b>-2823</b>
<b>Unlevered FCF</b>	<b>11740</b>	<b>5475</b>	<b>-1717</b>	<b>-16929</b>	<b>43797</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>-1109</b>	<b>-94</b>	<b>-405</b>	<b>1943</b>	<b>1508</b>	<b>-127</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>756</b>								

# Others

## Valuation Assumptions and Discounted Cash Flows Method

	2021F	2022F	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	2033F	2034F	2035F	2036F	2037F	2038F	2039F	2040F	Terminal value (2040)
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
<b>Europe</b>																					
EBIT	5981	5734	5559	5427	5301	5186	5079	4974	4870	4767	4664	4561	4458	4355	4252	4149	4046	3943	3840	3737	3634
Taxes	(2181)	(2091)	(2026)	(1966)	(1910)	(1857)	(1806)	(1756)	(1707)	(1659)	(1612)	(1566)	(1521)	(1477)	(1434)	(1391)	(1349)	(1307)	(1266)	(1225)	(1184)
NOPLAT	3800	3643	3533	3461	3391	3329	3273	3218	3164	3111	3058	3005	2952	2900	2847	2794	2741	2688	2635	2582	2529
Depreciation and Amortisation	8370	8018	7876	7733	7590	7447	7304	7161	7018	6875	6732	6589	6446	6303	6160	6017	5874	5731	5588	5445	5302
Operating CFs	12170	12061	11909	11764	11620	11476	11332	11188	11044	10900	10756	10612	10468	10324	10180	10036	9892	9748	9604	9460	9316
Yield%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Capex	(557)	(509)	(494)	(479)	(464)	(449)	(434)	(419)	(404)	(389)	(374)	(359)	(344)	(329)	(314)	(299)	(284)	(269)	(254)	(239)	(224)
Acquisition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Cash	11613	11552	11415	11285	11156	11027	10898	10769	10640	10511	10382	10253	10124	9995	9866	9737	9608	9479	9350	9221	9092
FCF Core Europe Business	8145	7947	7750	7553	7356	7159	6962	6765	6568	6371	6174	5977	5780	5583	5386	5189	4992	4795	4598	4401	4204
WACC	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%
ROIC	4.44%	5.12%	4.87%	4.68%	4.44%	4.23%	3.97%	3.70%	3.42%	3.14%	2.86%	2.58%	2.30%	2.02%	1.74%	1.46%	1.18%	0.90%	0.62%	0.34%	0.06%
Reinvestment Rate	81.09%	75.25%	69.54%	64.02%	58.70%	53.58%	48.66%	43.94%	39.52%	35.39%	31.55%	28.00%	24.74%	21.76%	19.04%	16.56%	14.31%	12.28%	10.45%	8.82%	7.38%
Growth Rate	-4.31%	-12.72%	-13.20%	-15.2%	-15.99%	-16.80%	-17.63%	-18.48%	-19.35%	-20.24%	-21.15%	-22.08%	-23.03%	-24.00%	-25.00%	-26.03%	-27.08%	-28.15%	-29.24%	-30.35%	-31.48%
<b>Without Goodwill</b>																					
WACC	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%
ROIC	7.17%	7.89%	7.62%	7.30%	6.93%	6.51%	6.04%	5.52%	4.95%	4.33%	3.66%	2.94%	2.17%	1.36%	0.51%	-0.38%	-1.31%	-2.28%	-3.28%	-4.31%	-5.37%
Reinvestment Rate	42.34%	41.43%	38.20%	34.50%	30.34%	25.73%	20.78%	15.50%	9.91%	4.02%	-2.18%	-8.00%	-13.52%	-18.74%	-23.64%	-28.21%	-32.53%	-36.60%	-40.41%	-43.96%	-47.26%
Growth Rate	-4.31%	-12.72%	-13.20%	-15.2%	-15.99%	-16.80%	-17.63%	-18.48%	-19.35%	-20.24%	-21.15%	-22.08%	-23.03%	-24.00%	-25.00%	-26.03%	-27.08%	-28.15%	-29.24%	-30.35%	-31.48%
<b>Rest of the world (including Other and Eliminations)</b>																					
EBIT	3354	3400	3508	3673	3894	4164	4484	4854	5274	5744	6264	6844	7484	8184	8944	9764	10644	11584	12584	13644	14764
Taxes	(1223)	(1240)	(1273)	(1324)	(1394)	(1484)	(1594)	(1724)	(1874)	(2044)	(2234)	(2444)	(2674)	(2924)	(3194)	(3484)	(3794)	(4124)	(4474)	(4844)	(5234)
NOPLAT	2131	2160	2235	2349	2500	2680	2890	3130	3400	3700	4030	4390	4780	5190	5620	6080	6560	7060	7580	8120	8680
Depreciation and Amortisation	1331	1347	1387	1454	1544	1664	1814	1994	2204	2444	2714	3014	3344	3704	4094	4514	4964	5444	5954	6494	7064
Operating CFs	802	813	848	895	956	1016	1084	1164	1254	1354	1464	1584	1714	1844	1984	2134	2294	2464	2644	2834	3034
Yield%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Capex	(153)	(170)	(180)	(194)	(212)	(234)	(260)	(290)	(324)	(362)	(404)	(450)	(500)	(554)	(612)	(674)	(740)	(810)	(884)	(962)	(1044)
Acquisition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Cash	649	643	668	701	744	790	844	904	968	1036	1108	1184	1264	1348	1436	1528	1624	1724	1828	1936	2048
FCF Core ROW Business	1441	1447	1487	1554	1644	1754	1884	2034	2204	2394	2604	2834	3084	3354	3644	3954	4284	4634	4994	5364	5744
WACC	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%
ROIC	26.70%	26.34%	22.20%	18.24%	15.96%	13.84%	11.77%	9.73%	7.70%	5.69%	3.70%	1.74%	-0.28%	-1.80%	-3.32%	-4.84%	-6.36%	-7.88%	-9.40%	-10.92%	-12.44%
Reinvestment Rate	-15.50%	-37.70%	-41.10%	-48.90%	-57.50%	-66.34%	-75.34%	-84.50%	-93.82%	-103.30%	-112.94%	-122.74%	-132.68%	-142.76%	-152.98%	-163.34%	-173.84%	-184.48%	-195.26%	-206.18%	-217.24%
Growth Rate	1.34%	-5.97%	-7.92%	-7.54%	-8.48%	-9.50%	-10.60%	-11.78%	-13.04%	-14.38%	-15.80%	-17.30%	-18.88%	-20.54%	-22.28%	-24.08%	-25.94%	-27.86%	-29.84%	-31.88%	-33.98%
<b>DCF Core Business</b>																					
Discounted CFs Core Business (M€)	9424	9778	9760	9908	10078	10264	10464	10678	10904	11144	11394	11654	11924	12204	12494	12794	13104	13424	13754	14094	14444
Non core assets/liabilities (M€)	2630	2629																			
Enterprise Value (M€)	12054	12407																			
Net Debt (M€)	5550	5384																			
Equity Value (M€)	6504	7023																			
FCF core business	3045	3127																			
Price per Share (€)	2.21	1.83																			
EPS (€)	0.19	0.05																			
<b>Expected Capital Gain</b>																					
Price Target (€) (plus share)	2.21	1.83																			
Current Share Price (€)	1.38	1.38																			
Expected Capital Gain (%)	72.72%	33.33%																			
Expected Cash Gain																					
Dividend Yield (%)	7.03%	7.03%																			
Expected Cash Gain (%)	7.03%	7.03%																			
Expected Capital Gain + Cash Gain (%)	79.75%	40.36%																			
Cost of Equity	4.88%	4.88%																			
Recommendation	BUY	BUY																			

Our investment recommendation is based on a 15-month horizon starting on the 1st January 2021 (Current Price) and ending on the 31st December 2035 (Price Target) and we assumed the total shareholder return to only consider the period from 1st March 2021 - 31st March 2022.

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### Report Recommendations

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<b>Buy</b>	Expected total return (including expected capital gains and expected dividend yield) of more than 10% over a 12-month period.
<b>Hold</b>	Expected total return (including expected capital gains and expected dividend yield) between 0% and 10% over a 12-month period.
<b>Sell</b>	Expected negative total return (including expected capital gains and expected dividend yield) over a 12-month period.

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Bringing Future Technologies Today  
**Business Overview**

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A Project carried out on the Master in Finance Program, under the supervision of:

Nuno Quartin Bastos de Vasconcelos e Sá

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## Abstract

The Vodafone Group Plc is a multinational telecommunications company that operates in two main geographic segments: Europe and Africa. Since this firm entered in the run for 5G development and has surrender to its towers carve-out during the financial year of 2021, there is some uncertainty relating to the future of its stock price.

This thesis includes a thorough analysis of the company's past performance, and since Vodafone is a complex company, with two very different markets, it was essential to consider different value drivers for each segment. The report submits detailed prospects for the Group's future performance, and consequently, the presentation of Discounted Cash Flow and Multiple analysis valuation methods, deducing the company's share price by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, and respective recommendation for potential investors.

## Keywords

MNOs, 5G roll-out, Tower carve-out, M&A

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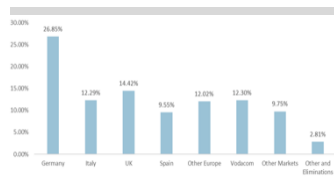
This report is part of the Vodafone Group Plc report (annexed) and should be read as an integral part of it.

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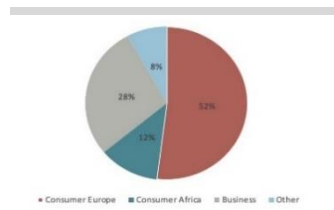
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# COMPANY OVERVIEW

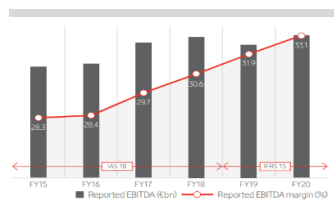
**Exhibit 1 – % of Vodafone Revenues per Geography in 2020**



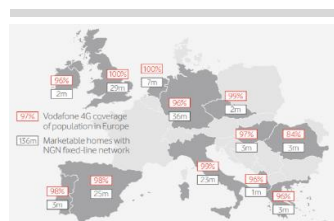
**Exhibit 2 – % of Vodafone Service Revenues per Segment in 2020**



**Exhibit 3 – EBITDA Margin Expansion**



**Exhibit 4 – Mobile Network Sharing and Scaled Fixed Infrastructure**



Source: Vodafone Annual Report 2020

Vodafone Group Plc, founded on July 17 1984, and headquartered in the United Kingdom, is an international telecommunications company with approximately 93.000 employees spread across its different geographic business areas. Over the last two years, through several acquisitions, mergers, and disinvestments, the company is now organized into two scaled regional platforms, Europe and Africa. Its European segment, which represents most of the Group service revenues, relies on operations based in Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Other Europe, and its Rest of World (ROW) segment includes South Africa, Egypt and Other Africa. Moreover, the Group holds interests in various joint ventures in the Netherlands (VodafoneZiggo), Australia (Vodafone Hutchison), India (Vodafone Idea and Indus Towers), Italy (INWIT), and in an associate in Kenya (Safaricom).

The Group provides a wide variety of communication services to consumers and businesses, comprising voice, messaging and data across mobile and fixed networks. However, the European and African consumers' needs are clearly distinct, hence, it offers mobile, fixed, and TV services, separately or in bundles, Internet of Things' (IoT) solutions and security and insurance products in Europe, and multiple mobile services allowing to call, text, and obtain data, and a mobile payment platform, M-Pesa, to provide a simplified solution to people who own a mobile phone but do not have access to a bank account, in Africa. Regarding the Business segment, the Group offers mobile, fixed, converged communications services and IoT, cloud&security and carrier services. Additionally, Vodafone also rents wireless capacity to mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs), representing 8% of total service revenue (Exhibit 2). Concerning most recent highlights, in 2019, Vodafone announced the creation of the largest European tower company, already operational, and acquired Liberty's assets, evolving into an utterly convergent player in Europe.

The Group's revenues and service revenues increased from FY<sup>19</sup> to FY<sup>20</sup>, reaching a value of €44.97 billion, and €37.87 billion, respectively. In FY<sup>19</sup>, Vodafone began a program to cut its cost structure while improving network quality and clients' experience, which has triggered the enterprise to obtain a fifth consecutive year of EBITDA margin increase (Exhibit 3). Its main capital allocation concerns are to support infrastructure investments, reduce debt and maintain returns to shareholders.

## SHAREHOLDER STRUCTURE

Concerning ordinary shares, Vodafone has a primary listing on the London Stock Exchange and a secondary on NASDAQ, where it is traded in the form of American Depositary Shares issued by Deutsche Bank, each representing ten Vodafone ordinary shares. Most of the shares are owned by Institutional investors (81%), followed by General Public (18%), and the remaining is split among Government, Public and Private companies, individual insiders, and employees' share schemes. Top 25 shareholders own 46% of the company, being the most significant shareholder BlackRock Inc, with 7% ownership. In general, Institutional investors have low-risk aversion, easy access to capital, and are highly concerned with shareholder value, as their

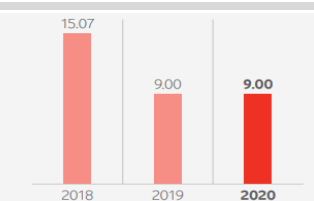
<sup>1</sup> FY: fiscal year ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March of each year

**Exhibit 5 – Vodafone Share Price**



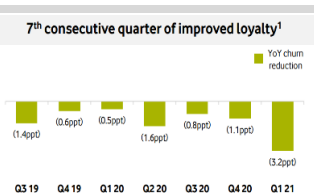
Source: investing.com

**Exhibit 6 – Vodafone's Dividends per share**



Source: Annual Report 2020

**Exhibit 7 – YoY Churn Reduction**



Source: Vodafone Q1 FY21 Presentation

**Exhibit 8 – Vodacom's improved performance**



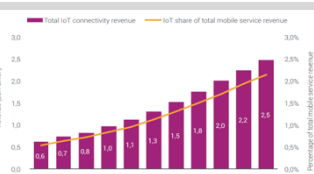
Source: Vodacom FY20

**Exhibit 9 – Vodafone's IoT SIM connections**



Source: Annual Report 2020

**Exhibit 10 – IoT revenue forecast Europe**



Source: ETNO

performance is frequently assessed regarding financial success<sup>2</sup>, positively affecting the firm's performance<sup>3</sup>.

Since 2018, the shares have lost half their worth (Exhibit 5). In 2019, the Board decided to rebase the dividend per share to €0.09, a 40% reduction over the previous fiscal year's dividend (Exhibit 6). The Group decreased its dividend for the first time in its history<sup>4</sup>, as it was considered imperative to increase financial margins to support the strategic targets which, ultimately, drives shareholder value. For FY20, the Board maintained total dividends per share of €0.09, implying an interim dividend of €0.045, paid in February 2020, and a final dividend of €0.045, paid in August 2020, despite revenue growth, but Vodafone intends to increase its dividends for the future, which we support, given the expected debt and profitability improvement and historical dividend policy.

## STRATEGY

Vodafone's strategic plan focuses on four main strategic priorities:

### Deepen Customer Engagement

In **Europe**, Vodafone aims to drive growth by focusing on the existing customer base, given its limited growth potential in such a mature market, through upselling converged offers and additional services, having reached 7.2 million converged customers in Europe, 0.6 million more than the year before, driving emphasis towards improved customer loyalty (Exhibit 7), with mobile contract churn reaching its low record of 14.6%. Another growth opportunity comes from having Europe's largest NGN fixed-line network, with growing net additions. And so, we support this trend will go on in the future for most European countries.

In **Africa**, Vodafone is a mobile data and payments provider, expecting to meet growing mobile data demand (Exhibit 8), given the lack of fixed broadband access, through network coverage extension and increasing handset affordability. We believe there is also a substantial opportunity to grow M-Pesa and broaden it into new financial and digital services, keeping up with its transaction volume trend.

Concerning the **Business** segment, there is an opportunity to gain market share in the evolving wide area networking market, given companies increased dependence on remote working and increased investments in software defined networking, cheaper and more reliable than legacy solutions. Also, telcos will be the single network enabling the industrialization of its IoT platform, leading to a technological shift on a range of industries<sup>5</sup>, and so, we assumed Vodafone's IoT SIM connections will continue to grow (Exhibit 9). Achieving such expansion of 5G connectivity, by assuming an increase in CapEx, will support AI, autonomous car systems and cloud computing, amongst other growth potential areas (Exhibit 10).

<sup>2</sup> Pound, 1988; Thomsen & Pedersen, 2000

<sup>3</sup> McConnell & Servaes, 1990; Thomsen & Pedersen, 2003; Tuggle et al., 2010

<sup>4</sup> "Vodafone chiefs cut bonuses in effort to prevent investor revolt", The Guardian, 2019

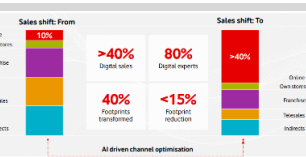
<sup>5</sup> "To be or not to be", Monitor Deloitte, 2017

# Accelerating Digital Transformation

**"5G will be sort of the backbone of industrial tech so when we really push the digitization of our societies, the security of the 5G network is absolutely of the essence."**

Commissioner Margrethe Vestager

**Exhibit 11 – Digital targets for FY21**



Source: Vodafone Digital First Investor Open Office

**"This exponential growth will lead to a drastic change in how people manage their everyday lives. Vodafone is the world leader in this technology in the business segment and now it will leverage its know-how to enable thousands of consumers to get the most out of the next global digital revolution"**

Emanuel Sousa, Private Business Division Director of Vodafone Portugal.

**Exhibit 12–Vantage Towers’ tenancy ratios**

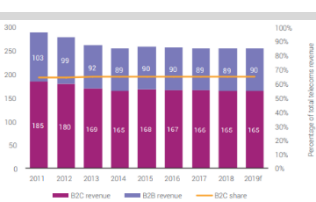


Source: Vantage Towers

**"By outsourcing, MNOs can release capital so they can invest in new technologies like fiber deployment and 5G. It's going to be very capital intense in the coming years, so they have a greater interest to outsource the provision of infrastructure to independent TowerCos."**

Patrick Boyeaux CEO American Tower France

**Exhibit 13–B2B and B2C revenue within Europe, 2011–2019f**



Source: ETNO

It has been reflected in a simpler operating model, through technological developments in the channel mix and digital customer care teams, offering personalized solutions, through Vodafone’s Shared Services division “\_VOIS”, by automating several operational processes across robotics, AI and process optimization, by continuing to invest in network infrastructure. This is assumed to increasingly reduce distribution channels’ commissions, moving from mass media to a personalized contact with customers, expecting a rise in digital sales and a reduction of retail stores (Exhibit 11). 5G roll-out will help building a competitive digital economy and encourage innovative new services, such as Quality of Service (QoS) differentiation, fixed wireless access (FWA) opportunities, and a range of potential consumer IoT applications, tailored to meet the increasingly specific customers’ needs, while bringing a significant cost reduction and services quality improvement. However, competition stays intense and governments continue to raise more money than expected from electromagnetic spectrum, resulting in heavier capital expenditures.

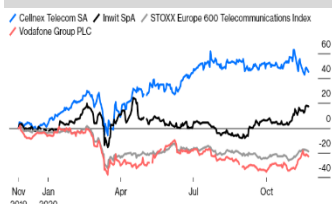
# Improving Asset Utilisation

In July 2019, Vodafone announced its plan to carve-out its tower business, VT, with an expected IPO in early 2021, which will allow for increased usage of Vodafone’s European tower infrastructure (Exhibit 12), creating a new shared network<sup>6</sup>, and supporting the trend of MNOs reinventing themselves, moving away from infrastructure ownership<sup>7</sup>. In the same month, Vodafone’s share price rose, with return increasing 14% being the real catalyst behind this jump the carve-out of Vodafone’s tower assets. The Group intends to retain a majority stake in VT, expected to sell 25% of equity, projecting to raise €4 billion from the IPO, believed to be valued at around €20 billion<sup>8</sup>. These values are considered in our valuation, through impacts in the firm’s financial statements. We believe there are three main reasons for this carve-out. Firstly, to capitalize its high-quality sites and build a cleaner business model; secondly, the IPO proceeds will partially offset its high debt levels; finally, to finance future high CapEx requirements to roll-out 5G<sup>9</sup>, which will shape Vodafone towards a more profitable business, adding a huge adoption from B2B clients, shifting from the past B2C focus (Exhibit 13). This will arise with the upcoming massive adoption of 5G technology by factories, being followed by Smart Cities, and later self-driving cars, once a full 5G coverage is reached, expected to have a significant positive impact in revenues.

Going deeper, the VT’s IPO intends to gain from the release in value on the Group’s balance sheet as infrastructure assets are valued at a higher level than telcos. For instance, tower owners, Cellnex and INWIT, have outperformed Vodafone and STOXX Europe 600 Telecommunications Index (Exhibit 14). With the upsurge of 5G networks, telcos need to provide greater 5G connectivity, which implies more antennas placed and, consequently, more tower space. Instead of building themselves or acquiring more towers, telcos will progressively share them by leasing only the

<sup>6</sup> “Vodafone Group Plc: Vantage Towers”, Vodafone Group, 2020  
<sup>7</sup> “The New Digital Landscape for Tower Companies”, BCG, 2020  
<sup>8</sup> “Europe’s Best Telecoms Stock Is a Real Estate Company”, Bloomberg, 2020  
<sup>9</sup> “Towers of power: European telcos find value in masts”, Financial times, 2020

**Exhibit 14 – Cellnex and INWIT outperformed Vodafone and STOXX Europe 600 Index**



Source: Bloomberg

antennas' space. Currently, Cellnex averages 1.58 antennas per tower, while VT averages 1.37, with both tenancy ratios prone to increase, due to the demand increment.

However, it is necessary to recognize that VT will probably trade at a discount when compared to Cellnex, since, while Cellnex is a more independent tower company, VT has Vodafone as a major shareholder, which can be negatively perceived by other competitors. Vodafone is able to claim 10% of VT's towers as strategic sites, blocking other carriers, which ensures Vodafone's network quality and coverage. Thus, VT will probably not grow as much as Cellnex, given that this control can hold back competitors to lease from VT. Therefore, VT is probable to trade more aligned with INWIT, that presents a similar position regarding MNO's ownership and lack of independence. INWIT EV/EBITDA multiple is 24x, indicating it is traded at discount, when compared to Cellnex's EV/EBITDA multiple of 30x. Another important aspect is that Cellnex's growth has also been driven by large acquisitions, while VT is more constrained, for now, as it only has €1 billion of capacity for extra debt, according to its CEO<sup>8</sup>.

VT holds 68000 masts across nine countries, assuming a first or second tower market share position in most of them, and an additional future 33.2% stake in INWIT joint venture with Vodafone Italia, a recently announced merger in Greece with Wind Hellas' tower assets and plans to include Vodafone's 50% owned UK joint venture company CTIL, which owns both Vodafone and Telefonica's passive tower infrastructure. VT will be supported by long-term contractual commitments with highly rated tenants, with its anchor tenant being Vodafone.

**Exhibit 15 – Vodafone's Portfolio Activity**

Acquisitions	
Germany & CEE	Acquisition and integration of Liberty Global's assets for €18.5 billion in July 2019
Greece	Acquisition of CYTA Telecommunications Hellas for €118 million in July 2018
Albania	Acquisition of AlbCom for an undisclosed amount in March 2020
Disposals	
New Zealand	Sale of 100% holding to Infratil and Brookfield for €2.0 billion in July 2019
Malta	Sale of 100% holding to Monaco Telecom for €242 million in March 2020
Qatar	Sale of 51% holding to Qatar Foundation for €301 million in March 2018
Egypt	MUJ signed with Saudi Telecom in January 2020 to pursue sale of 55% holding for €2.2 billion
Mergers	
Italy	Merger of Vodafone Italy's towers into INWIT for €2.35 billion and 37.5% holding in INWIT in March 2020
India	Merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular in July 2018
India	Agreement on proposed merger of Indus Towers with Bharti Infratel in April 2018
Australia	Merger of our existing Vodafone Hutchison joint-venture with TPG Telecom received competition approval in March 2020
Africa	Consolidated our holdings in Safaricom and M-Pesa to be primarily held through Vodacom in April 2020

Source: Vodafone Annual Report 2020

## Optimising the Portfolio

The simplification of Vodafone's portfolio will help reduce financial leverage, solely focusing on Europe and Africa, supported by strategic partnerships' synergies, reducing costs and the environmental effects of its networks (Exhibit 15).

## M&A

In July 2019, Vodafone acquired Liberty's assets in Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Romania for €18.5 billion, becoming the largest Gigabit-capable owner of NGN infrastructure in that region, expecting hundreds of millions of annual cost and CapEx savings, as well as a positive impact on the Group's revenues. Vodafone suffered a loss in FY20 of €0.5 billion (FY19: €7.6 billion), due to gains on the sale of Vodafone New Zealand and Vodafone Malta (€1.2 billion), the INWIT joint venture (€3.4 billion), together with a €2.5 billion loss related to Vodafone Idea.

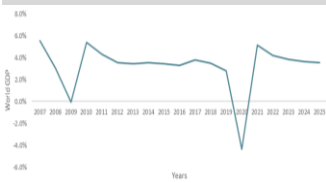
In FY20, Net Debt was much higher than the previous year, relating to Liberty's acquisition and spectrum costs, in part offset by €4.4 billion from disposals and Vodafone Italy's towers merger with INWIT (€2.35 billion), with a 37.5% holding. Vodafone received dividends of €0.2 billion after recapitalization and later sold down 4.3% of the shareholding (€0.4 billion), creating Italy's leading tower company, jointly owned with TIM, having both agreed on an active mobile network-sharing partnership within INWIT, enabling them to roll out 5G together, reaching a wider geographic area at lower costs and expected value added from early 2021, with rental income arising<sup>10</sup>. The Group

<sup>10</sup> "Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control over INWIT by Telecom Italia and Vodafone, subject to conditions", European Commission, 2020

also concluded several network sharing partnerships, with Deutsche Telekom in Germany, Orange in Romania and Spain, O2 in the UK, and Wind in Greece, improving network capacity and coverage.

## ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

**Exhibit 16 – Global GDP growth rate**



The coronavirus pandemic has brought a worldwide economic shock of colossal scale, causing recessions in several countries. In October 2020, the International Monetary Fund predicted a global GDP contraction of 4.4% in 2020, the deepest worldwide recession since the Financial Crisis of 2008, and 5.2% growth in 2021 (Exhibit 16). Afterwards, the global growth will decelerate to around 3.5% until 2025, translated into a narrower development than expected before the pandemic, however, assuming a worldwide economy recovery for our projections.

**Exhibit 17– Inflation Rate**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Germany	1.3%	0.5%	1.1%	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%	2.0%
Italy	0.5%	0.1%	0.5%	0.9%	1.0%	1.2%	1.4%
United Kingdom	1.8%	0.8%	1.2%	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%
Spain	0.7%	-0.2%	0.8%	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%
European Union	1.4%	0.8%	1.2%	1.4%	1.5%	1.7%	1.8%
South Africa	4.1%	2.3%	3.9%	4.3%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%
Sub-Saharan Africa	8.9%	10.6%	7.8%	6.9%	6.5%	6.3%	6.1%
World	3.5%	3.2%	3.4%	3.2%	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%

European governments implemented sizable fiscal measures to sustain households and companies, allied with an agenda to avoid a high unemployment rate. To prevent financial markets disturbance, the ECB has reacted with a robust monetary policy and supervisory measures and launched the Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme, valuing €1850 billion.

**Exhibit 18 – GDP Growth Rate**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Germany	0.6%	-4.0%	4.2%	3.1%	1.8%	1.3%	1.2%
Italy	0.3%	-10.8%	5.2%	2.8%	1.7%	0.9%	0.9%
United Kingdom	1.5%	-9.8%	5.9%	3.2%	1.9%	1.7%	1.6%
Spain	2.0%	-12.8%	7.2%	4.5%	3.4%	2.8%	1.5%
European Union	1.7%	-7.8%	5.8%	3.3%	2.5%	2.0%	1.8%
South Africa	0.2%	-8.0%	3.9%	1.5%	1.5%	2.1%	2.3%
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.2%	-3.8%	3.5%	4.0%	4.4%	4.4%	4.3%
World	2.8%	-4.4%	5.2%	4.2%	3.8%	3.6%	3.5%

The European Union, in a substantial exhibition of solidarity, is deploying supranational means to fund anti-pandemic facilities and complement national fiscal measures. IMF forecasted an EU GDP contraction of 7.6% in 2020, followed by a growth of 5% in the following year. Likewise, the Group's main European markets followed the same trend; their GDP declined in 2020 and is projected to rebound in the next years. Moreover, inflation is projected to remain relatively low over the forecast horizon.

Source: International Monetary Fund

Due to the pandemic and the decline in oil prices, the African economies have suffered both demand and supply-side shocks, intensifying economic disparities, increasing credit losses, and raising gaps between funding and liquidity<sup>11</sup>. The International Growth Centre considers that confinement measures may have additionally pushed 9.1% of the population into extreme poverty<sup>12</sup>. In many countries, central banks have proactively developed a policy response to these challenges to safeguard financial sector steadiness for both households and corporations. In 2020, South Africa's GDP is projected to contract (8%), and subsequently recover (3%) in 2021, while in Sub-Saharan Africa it is projected a decrease of 3%, and a recovery of 3.1% in 2021. Regarding Vodafone's future, we believe the African segment will have a slower economic recovery than the European one, given its developing nature and the less mature telco market. Therefore, we adopted a more conservative approach regarding the potential of Rest of the World's revenue forecasts, for the first few years.

**The IMF outlines the considerable uncertainty regarding the growth and inflation projections since it relies on economic and public health matters, which are, by its very nature, difficult to predict.**

Source: World Economic Outlook, IMF

<sup>11</sup> "Central Banks in Africa Are Guiding Banks Through COVID-19's Economic Fallout", S&P Global, 2020

<sup>12</sup> "The Mobile Economy Sub-Saharan Africa", Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), 2020



# INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

## Europe

**“5G is happening and fiber is making the European internet significantly faster”<sup>13</sup>**

Europe benefits from advanced innovation capacity, funding mechanisms, and a global leading research base underpinning fast implementation of 5G, having one of the largest markets for consumer and business services. It is supported by two leading mobile infrastructure suppliers<sup>14</sup> with considerable R&D and manufacturing presence, and its industrial and economic strengths lie mainly in sectors such as automotive, manufacturing, and healthcare. The 5G value chain in Germany is estimated to generate higher economic output per capita than in China by 2035 (Exhibit 19). More than the amount of connections, the real added value of 5G will result from its differentiated IoT and low-latency services, enhancing mobile broadband to deliver speedier data.

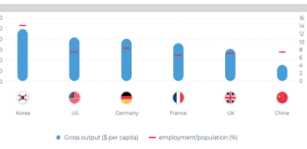
Despite that, Europe has been slower than others in providing 5G large scale commercial services, with only 13 EU Member States having launched them by September 2020, hindered by past delay in 4G migration (Exhibit 20). Only 26.4% of 5G spectrum has been assigned in Europe<sup>15</sup>, with high variance between countries. Europe stands above the global average in download speeds<sup>16</sup> and is one of the most advanced areas for 5G placement (Exhibit 21 & 22).

Microwave transmission still dominates mobile backhaul, enabling 10 Gbps and beyond, with a high stabilizing market share, while fiber’s share continues to grow and copper share decreases. In Europe, around 70% of towers are connected by microwave links, requiring fiber availability, to provide network diversity and coverage. 5G, not only requires both microwave links and fiber, but it also influences both the wireless and wireline wing of the network infrastructure. The 5G FWA enables operators to provide high-speed broadband and high-definition streaming services to suburban and rural areas, allowing 5G radios mobile technology to cross the fixed line services demand and prices. It provides a competitive alternative to wired broadband, more expensive to install and maintain, accelerating bandwidth turn up pressures on the global network and allowing for a higher concentration of users without causing obstruction<sup>17</sup>.

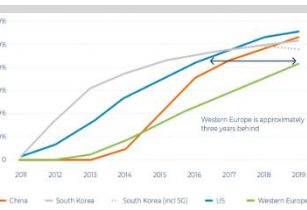
**“Regulation and its implementation should support European investment and innovation.”<sup>13</sup>**

There are regulatory inhibitors to investment in 5G. Firstly, the **inflated electromagnetic spectrum prices**<sup>18</sup>. European governments have not been treating 5G network as critical infrastructures, having instead prioritised spectrum monetisation, instead of ensuring its availability, whereby some telco operators are being charged up to 14x more than its global competitors (Exhibit 23 & 24). High spectrum costs hold back the market, creating a cost opportunity related with the spending at 5G auctions, in which, unlike physical networks, operators cannot

**Exhibit 19 – Economic Contributions of the 5G Value Chain (2035)**

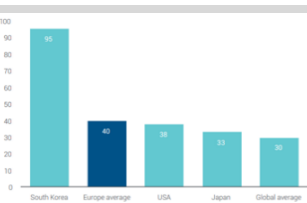


**Exhibit 20 – 4G Usage (% of subscriptions using 4G networks)**

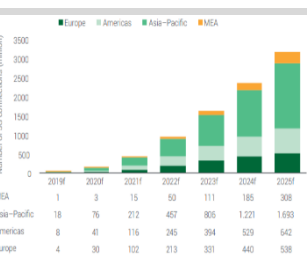


Source: ERT

**Exhibit 21 – Average mobile downlink speeds in Europe, Japan and South Korea, the USA, in September 2019**



**Exhibit 22 – Forecast of number of 5G connections 2018–2025**

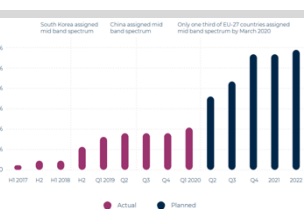


Source: ETNO

**Exhibit 23 – Price Per MHz Per Capita For Mid Band Spectrum (€ cents/3-5 GHz)**



**Exhibit 24 – Availability of Mid Band (3-5 GHz) Spectrum in EU-27 (share of EU-27 Member States, %)**



Source: ERT

<sup>13</sup> “The state of digital communications 2020”, European Telecommunications Network Operators’ Association (ETNO), 2020

<sup>14</sup> “TIM and Ericsson reach new European record for 5G speed”, Ericsson, 2020

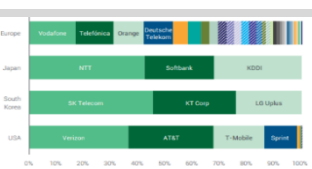
<sup>15</sup> “European 5G Observatory”, European Commission, 2020

<sup>16</sup> “The state of mobile network experience 2020: One year into the 5G era”, Opensignal, 2020

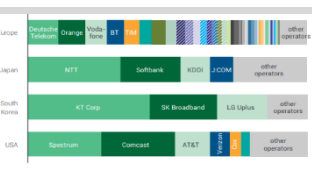
<sup>17</sup> “Fixed wireless access Outlook”, Ericsson, 2020

<sup>18</sup> “ERT Position on Regulatory Framework for 5G”, European Round Table for Industry (ERT), 2020

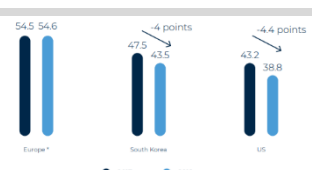
**Exhibit 25 – Share of mobile service revenue by operator (2019)**



**Exhibit 26 – Share of fixed service revenue by operator (2019)**

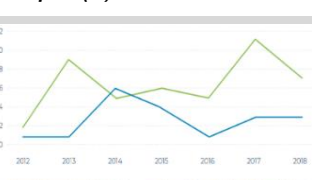


**Exhibit 27 – Investment Intensity (CapEx/EBITDA, %)**



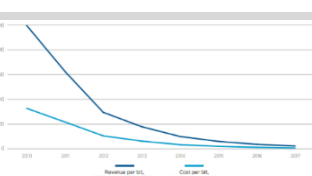
Source: ERT

**Exhibit 28 – Return on Invested Capital (%)**



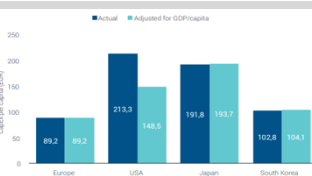
Source: ERT

**Exhibit 29 – Revenue/Gb versus Cost/Gb for Mobile Data**

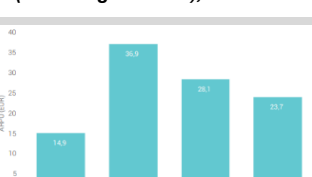


Source: GSMA

**Exhibit 30 – CapEx per capita, 2018**



**Exhibit 31 – Mobile ARPU (excluding IoT SIMs), 2018**



Source: ETNO

decide to postpone it, thus, regions with a riskier business environment may not benefit from 5G. Ultimately, regulatory pressures lead to uncertainty and more intense CapEx.

The **highly fragmented European market structure**<sup>18</sup>, with much more MNOs in Europe than in other regions, and lack of harmonising spectrum allocation criteria, which leads European operators to be spread more thinly in comparison to global competitors, both in mobile and fixed markets (Exhibit 25 & 26).

**Continued support of revenue depressing measures and artificially endorsing unsustainable levels of competition**<sup>18</sup>. While intense competition has benefited lower consumer pricing and service innovation, it has negatively impacted revenues, as well as roaming provisions. Between 2017 and 2018, the CapEx/EBITDA ratio remained nearly flat for European operators, whereas in US and South Korea decreased, meaning telcos' revenues in these countries increased faster than investments (Exhibit 27), leading to a higher return on invested capital (Exhibit 28). The sector has suffered a decade of deflation in Europe, with European telcos bearing 2% more deflation than telcos in US, Japan and South Korea (2008-2018), due to higher market fragmentation.

And finally, **European operators are under a degree of regulation that big tech is not**<sup>18</sup>. There is a disparity of regulation concerning digital and telco sectors regarding security, privacy, and transparency, with telcos being subjected to further privacy regulations, inconsistent with the GDPR and creating an additional imbalance in terms of competitiveness.

**“European telecom markets need to become stronger. Investment is still too low, despite high capital intensity and investment leadership by ETNO companies.”**<sup>13</sup>

The Directive on measures of rolling-out high-speed electronic communications networks seeks to make broadband deployment more cost-effective, through measures such as sharing and re-using existing physical infrastructure, bringing sustainable economic and social benefits<sup>19</sup>. This maximises network's efficiency and utilisation. 5G will sustain the previous trend in mobile data pricing of 4G, where larger network capacities and the smaller gap between the revenue/GB and cost/GB curves<sup>20</sup> (Exhibit 29) have led to the adoption of unlimited data bundles.

European telcos invest heavily in infrastructure, more directed towards fixed, although expected some rebalancing with the deployment of 5G. There has been a strong investment in FTTP, as it presents lower OpEx and a lower environmental impact than other solutions. Though it is still far from achieving the European Gigabit Society 2025 targets<sup>13</sup>, as it involves high CapEx. In Europe, one of the main reasons for the slow fiber roll-out is the lack of appropriate physical infrastructure in the old copper network. In countries such as Germany and the UK, FTTP development has been delayed because of elevated labour costs.

European telcos have higher capital intensity, but lower investment per capita, than global peers in US, Japan and South-Korea (Exhibit 30), mainly impacted by low prices<sup>18</sup>, with lower ARPU (Exhibit 31), and consumer and business markets' revenues slightly decreasing (Exhibit 32), supporting Vodafone's forecasted overall decreasing revenues.

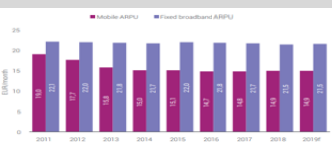
<sup>19</sup> “EU rules to reduce cost of high-speed broadband deployment”, European Commission, 2020

<sup>20</sup> “The 5G guide”, GSMA, 2019

**Exhibit 32 – European B2B and B2C revenues, 2011–2019f**



**Exhibit 33 – European Mobile and Fixed broadband ARPU, 2011–2019f**



Source: ETNO

**Exhibit 34 – Vodafone’s Mobile ARPU and Fixed ARPU per month (Europe)**



**Exhibit 35 – Vodafone’s Mobile ARPU and Fixed ARPU per month (ROW)**



Source: Analysts Estimations

In Europe, fixed and mobile data usage keeps growing sharply. Traffic growth is mainly driven by increased demand for video content<sup>21</sup>. Across Europe, 78% of households had a fixed broadband subscription in 2019, up from 70% 5 years ago. Although, mobile broadband penetration is very high, with 21/37 OECD countries having over 100 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, subscriptions grew 5% in 2019, contrasting with fiber’s growth rate of 13%, being the fastest growing fixed broadband technology reaching 28% of all fixed broadband subscriptions<sup>22</sup>. We continue this trend with a more stable rise in mobile customers and a more robust growth in fixed customers, for Vodafone.

The shift to SIM-only plans and delayed handset refresh rates reduce revenues and contract lengths, and decrease margins, negatively impacting the uptake of 5G services. Innovative technological solutions offered are usually sold at a discount, as premium prices are difficult to sustain, which also happened regarding the FTTP’s price of entry-level, which has fallen below that of ADSL. Demand for data services remains elastic, with small shifts in price triggering significant churn in consumer services, though its growth has not been followed by an increase in revenues, given the highly competitive environment. In general, consumers have become accustomed to a specific average price for their mobile subscription and are normally reluctant to pay more<sup>23</sup>, with a flat €22/month ARPU for fixed broadband for the last years, while mobile ARPU has stabilised at just under €15/month, after 2015 (Exhibit 33). Vodafone’s ARPU per month lays slightly below European average and is forecasted to decrease according to the existing trend (Exhibit 34).

**“Networks are becoming greener, with both carbon intensity and overall emissions decreasing and aggressive climate targets.”<sup>13</sup>**

The Information and Communications Technology sector has been estimated to produce 2% of global CO2 emissions, similar to the aviation industry, mainly due to cloud computing, which considerably augmented in previous years. Contrarily, the adoption of IoT devices is critical in tackling greenhouse gas emissions, enabling better precision to be applied to resources. Furthermore, the most critical investment fields for Vodafone in the upcoming years, fiber and 5G, have positive environmental implications. The 5G lower cost/byte and concession for several types of traffic with diverse network demands, comparing to 4G, will only be significantly efficient if past generation networks are decommissioned in a prompt manner, meaning that the respective allocated spectrum will be reused more efficiently. Higher demand for data services is influenced by the Jevons paradox, whereas technological progress rises efficiency, which simply supports a growing rate of consumption, with an increase in energy demand of 5%/year. However, by 2019, around 50% of the energy used by European operators derived from renewable resources, reducing overall emissions by 8.5%, which contributed to a lower carbon intensity<sup>13</sup>.

In general, being economically efficient overlies with being sustainable. Network sharing, fixed-mobile convergence and upgrading network technologies will lessen the carbon footprint. On the other hand, renewables usage and recycling of consumed products, shifting energy supply to renewable, carbon offsetting, amongst other measures, come at some higher cost than less

2030 digital technologies will deliver reductions in carbon emissions equivalent to nearly seven times the size of the growth in the total information and communications technology sector emissions footprint over the same period.

Source: GeSI Digital with Purpose

<sup>21</sup> Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI), 2020

<sup>22</sup> “OECD broadband statistics update”, OECD, 2020

<sup>23</sup> “Realising 5G’s full potential: Setting policies for success”, GSMA, 2020

sustainable options. With the influx of investment from ESG investors, and as part of Vodafone's commitment to sustainability, the Group developed a Green Bond Framework and, in early 2019, issued its first green bond of €750 million to fund projects to achieve the company's environmental aims, and also to meet ESG concerns that investors may have.

***“Digital services, cloud and Artificial Intelligence: telecom operators are enablers of European trust-based innovation.”<sup>13</sup>***

IT services' market has been growing with higher demand for faster and locally customized cloud services. IoT continues to grow, with telcos enabling industrial and domestic applications, expected to attain around 740 million active connections by 2026. OTTs have been growing their services due to greater resources, economies of scale and certain investment patterns, by innovating in services and products faster than telcos, making it hard for them to compete. Thus, around 70% of mobile customers also use OTT messaging (Exhibit 36).

Telecommunications services exhibit a weak correlation to macroeconomic elements, since they are essential services. Though, a decline in discretionary income could result in a moderate drop in business revenues for cable, wireline and infrastructure suppliers, and modest postpaid wireless subscriber losses, to a rise in prepaid connections, given the large availability of similar services, offered by other telcos, indicating a tendency for low customer loyalty.

Substantial new services in video include the Disney+ and AppleTV, which have entered the market with strong advertising and superior value content, having OTT revenues both replacing traditional pay-TV revenues, and growing the market, with services now being provided either by operators or OTT providers (Exhibit 37). Therefore, telcos are increasingly competing with OTT video services, by releasing their own. Some Europeans are purchasing and using multiple TV services, and such trend implicates that stronger platforms will gradually control the market with almost 50% of pay TV revenues being powered by OTT services by 2024. Instead, AI has been increasingly developed to make telcos more efficient and responsive to customer needs, with service and data-driven innovation enhancing networks at their core. AI, together with automation, help ensure European operators remain competitive against non-telco competitors, reducing the subscription cost for the use of new technologies. This corroborates the highly intense level of competition environment, in which Vodafone is integrated, supporting extra challenges in increasing profitability, included in our forecasts.

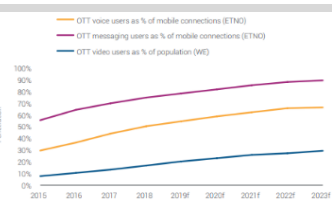
### Shareholders

Telco operators are accountable to shareholders, as any other business, even when governments hold a part of it. Stock markets have not been generous on the European telcos sector in the recent past, nor expected for the near future, presenting a lower performance than the cross-sector European index and the telcos global index (Exhibit 38).

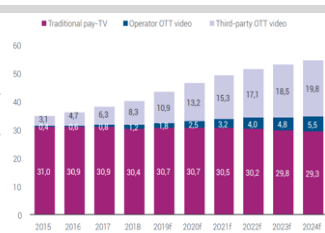
## Africa

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the pandemic financial impact on the mobile industry is both characterized by the sudden rise in data consumption and mobile money transactions, with positive impact on revenues, offset by initiatives from operators, such as discounts and transaction-fee exemptions to support vulnerable consumers. Prepaid connections are more than 95% of mobile connections,

**Exhibit 36 – OTT services penetration, Western Europe, 2015–2023f**



**Exhibit 37 – Pay-TV vs OTT retail revenue, in Western Europe, 2015–2024f**

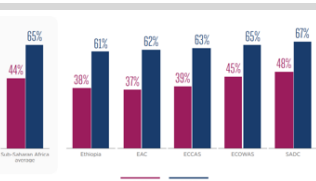


**Exhibit 38 – Stoxx Europe 600 index vs Stoxx Europe 600 index for telecommunications vs Stoxx Global 1800 index for telecommunications, 4Q 2014–4Q 2019**



Source: ETNO

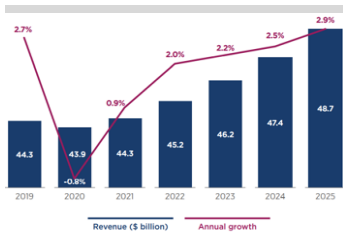
**Exhibit 39 – Smartphones as % of total connections**



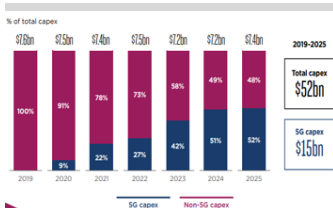
Source: GSMA

suggesting that consumers are flexible to vary telcos spend when their financial situation changes. This highlights the more sensitive situation lived in the African context<sup>12</sup>. Even though Vodafone bears less competition, as customers are not as loyal as in Europe, the Group faces higher risks regarding the potential customers' loss, negatively impacting revenues. The digital transformation, strengthened by increasing access to broadband connectivity, has enabled remote working and education, online shopping, and digital payments, alleviating the socioeconomic pandemic effects, generating 9% of GDP across the area (2019), supporting more than 3.8 million jobs, and noticeably contributing to the public sector funding, with nearly \$17 billion raised through taxation. In Sub-Saharan Africa, taxes on mobile represent 7% of income for the lowest 20% earners, comparing to the 2% affordability target set by the UN in 2019, which outlines challenges customers face regarding affordability.

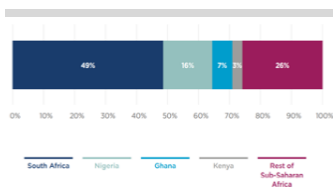
**Exhibit 40 – Strong medium to long-term outlook on rising 4G and mobile money adoption in Sub-Saharan Africa**



**Exhibit 41 – Investment in infrastructure rollout in Sub-Saharan Africa**



**Exhibit 42 – IoT connections in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2020**



Source: GSMA

The shift to 5G will gain momentum in the 2020s worldwide and the greater opportunity for 5G FWA will arise in emerging countries, where fixed broadband is still not dominant. However, there are still few operators offering 5G mobile and FWA in Sub-Saharan Africa, as 4G will continue to be their primary focus since there is a substantial unexploited 4G capacity, and its adoption is still relatively low. Hence, telco companies will have to make an effort to lower 4G devices' prices and provide appropriate digital content to raise connectivity demand (Exhibit 40). That said, in a post-Covid 19 world, due to the scarcity of fixed-line infrastructure and the growing importance of the digital economy, the 5G FWA will be essential to deliver high-speed broadband connectivity (Exhibit 41). Moreover, with the rapid expansion of the fintech ecosystem, operators are developing mobile money platforms to offset stagnating core earnings and expand their digital environment presence. In 2019, the number of registered mobile money accounts in Sub-Saharan Africa reached 469 million, and it is forecasted to increase in the future. To meet this rapid expansion plan, Vodafone will significantly increase its CapEx for the future.

As the pandemic affected all economic sectors, IoT solutions are crucial to enhance operational processes' productivity and efficiency (Exhibit 42). However, this region faces numerous challenges due to insufficient investment and innovation in solutions that tackle local use cases, inconstant power supply, and low purchasing power. Nevertheless, the Sub-Saharan Africa mobile networks expansion, supported by policymakers, has endorsed several pay-as-you-go business models and IoT solutions, enabling the accessibility of products and services to low-income customers, which allow for innovative and reliable energy, water, and sanitation services' models, improving levels of capacity and coverage<sup>12</sup>, however, this sector will still require major investments to meet customers' needs.

## RISK ANALYSIS

It is crucial to analyse Vodafone's major risk factors that may adversely impact the business. Strategic transformation imposes a substantial risk, as Vodafone is undertaking a massive scale incorporation of new assets, which, if not accomplished efficiently, results in additional costs. This process also requires a considerable amount of technology to be transferred prior the conclusion of the transitional services agreements, as failing to digitally transform the business sets it back from competitors and from achieving cost efficiency in its operations. Also, the Group has several

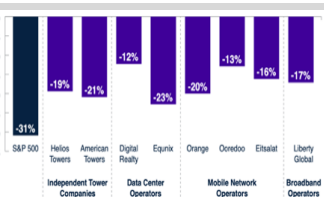
joint ventures which it must ensure operate effectively. All these factors compromise the Group's profitability and shareholders' returns.

Cyber Threat and Information Security is also an imminent risk, evolving with the rise of new technologies<sup>24</sup>. A cyber-attack, supplier breach, or insider threat might trigger service suspension and confidential information loss, leading to a significant customer, financial and reputational impact. The implementation of GDPR<sup>25</sup> imposed by the EU has shown the importance of user privacy and data protection. Some European countries are following the US with Huawei's ban<sup>26</sup>, given security concerns, which will impact the Group, as it relies on Huawei gear in most of the countries it operates, which we assume will all follow this trend.

The importance of the global economic disruption is considered, triggered by Covid-19, as it can impact cash-flows, currencies, borrowing costs and debt financing availability. However, as the Group presents long average life of debt, and a major part of its interest costs are fixed, it is not heavily affected by this. Covid-19 impacted this industry but, conversely to many others, the telecommunication sector has been normally exempted from major related restrictions. Traffic growth has demonstrated increased reliance on connectivity and digital services. Thus, S&P 500 has been more drastically affected than telcos, and hence, the risk is less severe<sup>27</sup> (Exhibit 43), due to the nature of this crisis. Nevertheless, the first 5G enabled equipment is now becoming available, even though it has been impacted by the pandemic lockdowns, causing supply-chain disruptions. This, together with the 5G smartphones' higher reliance on chip content, causing an intensified demand, especially after Huawei's major stock buy, have been setting back chips production, which will indirectly impact Vodafone's 5G plans' adoption in the short-term.

Vodafone is also exposed to Market disruption, given the highly competitive environment, with new players pressuring prices down and offering unlimited offers, pushing down market share.

**Exhibit 43 – Key global telecom players' performance vs S&P 500, during Covid-19 pandemic**



Source: S&P Capital IQ

## SCENARIO ANALYSIS

**Exhibit 44 – Scenario Analysis**

	Best Case	Most Likely Case	Worst Case
Probability of Occurrence	12.50%	75.00%	12.50%
Group's Core Result Before Taxes in m€ (FY21)	10883	10469	10095
Group's Statutory Tax Rate	26.54%	27.30%	29.23%
Share Price	2.29	1.93	1.51
Shareholders Return	65.62%	39.75%	9.34%

Source: Analysts Estimations

Three scenarios were created to measure the impact of changes in the statutory tax rate, that can be influenced by numerous tax reforms such as financial reporting directives, state aid investigations, future business acquisitions and disposals and restructuring and resolution of open tax issues. The analysis also includes the impact of the abovementioned risk factors on the firm's profitability, with an EBITDA margin variation, as well as a variation of the reversion period of Deferred tax assets and Deferred tax liability (DTA&DTL) pace (Exhibit 44).

The Best/Worst case assumed, considers the lowest/highest historical value of statutory tax rate since 2010, as standard for the future. Regarding risks, we assumed a 1%point increase/decrease on each country's forecasted yearly EBITDA margin. The best one reflects efficient strategic integration of new assets resulting in a more efficient business, and accomplishment of the desired digital transformation, allowing the company to keep up or surpass competitors, and achieve cost efficiency in its operations. It also assumes no more serious recessions and an overall growth environment, with higher services' demand and cash-flows, and

<sup>24</sup> "Mobile Telecommunications Security Threat Landscape", GSMA, 2020

<sup>25</sup> General Data Protection Regulation

<sup>26</sup> "Vodafone 'pauses' use of Huawei equipment over security concerns", The Guardian, 2019

<sup>27</sup> "COVID-19's Impact on the Global Telecommunications Industry", IFC, 2020

little to no impact on currencies, borrowing costs and debt financing availability. Additionally, no significant new peer entries affecting market share were considered. Regarding Huawei ban, future cyber risk will be reduced, involving higher data protection. Contrarily, the worst case reflects the opposite effects. Finally, concerning the DTA&DTL reversion period, in the best case the pace decreases at a slower rate of 5%, while in the worst case it is reverted to 0 in FY21. The report is written under the assumptions of the most likely scenario.