

Joint Industry Statement on Innovation and the Open Internet

12 May 2016, Brussels – The telecoms industry supports the EU institutions' effort to ensure that Europe leads the way in creating a stronger digital economy and society, with a view to creating an Internet of Things (IoT) and 5G-ready Continent.

In this context, we believe that the upcoming implementation of the European Open Internet rules (EU Regulation 2015/2120) will be crucial to ensure that Europe does not miss out on vital opportunities for innovation, social development and economic growth.

For this reason, we support the Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications (BEREC) in their important work to develop EU guidelines for the implementation of the Open Internet Rules.

More specifically, we believe it is important to place emphasis on those services that need to be enabled in an IoT and 5G Europe. Connected and automated cars, smart transport, industrial internet, e-healthcare and superbroadband will all be at the core of enhanced consumer and business services.

All these services imply a series of specific network requirements, including low latency, managed quality, tailored functionalities and increased security. Such requirements will be vital to ensure a smooth, secure and positive user experience. They will also ensure that our ability to enjoy access to the open internet and to all the services that run on top of it is not degraded.

In order to achieve an innovation-proof implementation of the Open Internet Rules, we believe it is important that the Guidelines are aligned with the original spirit and letter of the EU Regulation 2015/2120. Namely:

- A principle-based approach to traffic management should be maintained allowing smooth and efficient functioning of networks;
- Services other than Internet access services should not be addressed by the guidelines;
- Commercial and technical conditions, as well as contractual agreements, should not be unduly limited or prohibited when demanded by consumers.

As industry and policymakers work towards ambitious connectivity and digitalisation goals, we believe that the above mentioned points will prove crucial in ensuring that the Open Internet Guidelines empower, rather than hamper, innovation and new services.

The signatories of this statement are:

Cable Europe

Cable Europe is the trade association that connects leading broadband cable TV operators and their national trade associations throughout the European Union. The regulatory and public policy activities of Cable Europe aim to promote and defend the industry's policies and business interests at European and international level. The European cable industry provides high speed broadband



internet, TV services, and telephony into the home of 64.5 million customers the European Union.
www.cable-europe.eu

ETNO

ETNO has been the voice of Europe's telecommunication network operators since 1992 and has become the principal policy group for European electronic communications network operators. Its 41 members and observers from Europe and beyond are the backbone of Europe's digital progress. They are the main drivers of broadband and are committed to its continual growth in Europe. ETNO members are pan-European operators that also hold new entrant positions outside their national markets. ETNO brings together the main investors in innovative and high-quality e-communications platforms and services, representing 60% of total sector investment. For more information, please visit the ETNO website at www.etno.eu. Follow ETNO on Twitter: @ETNOAssociation.

GSMA

The GSMA represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide, uniting nearly 800 operators with more than 250 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem, including handset and device makers, software companies, equipment providers and internet companies, as well as organisations in adjacent industry sectors. The GSMA also produces industry-leading events such as Mobile World Congress, Mobile World Congress Shanghai and the Mobile 360 Series conferences. For more information, please visit the GSMA corporate website at www.gsma.com. Follow the GSMA on Twitter: @GSMA.