

“We need to get Europe closer to a telecoms single market that boosts services and network investment”

Statement by DIGITALEUROPE ahead of final trialogues on the Electronic Communications Code

Brussels, 17 May 2018

“The final rounds of negotiations on telecoms reform must achieve practical results in terms of protecting a single market approach and build a common digital infrastructure ensuring growth in Europe”, said Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director General of DIGITALEUROPE, less than a week before a crucial triologue on the European Electronic Communications Code. *“What’s also key is to have a final text that doesn’t completely jeopardise the pro-investment nature of the proposal: Europe needs infrastructure investment to grow and companies must know that there will be returns and stable regulation if they put in the money to deploy the networks of the future”,* she concluded.

As much as possible, short of a main establishment principle, businesses in the EU should count on administrative simplification and a consistent approach to how their services are authorised in the Member States. DIGITALEUROPE calls on the co-legislators to ensure BEREC can provide the necessary templates to this end. Moreover, the need to have authorisations in each country where a provider operates should be reassessed after five years in light of market and technological developments.

Boosting investment in the EU's digital infrastructure through better rules on access and co-investment was a *raison d'être* for the entire Code proposal. A sufficiently flexible mechanism that favours companies' investment decisions must be ensured. If there is no possibility for differentiation, investment decisions will be delayed and the quality of networks in Europe will suffer – meaning the connectivity objectives for 2020 and 2025 will not be reached.

Finally, we keep stressing that the Code must clearly recognise that access to emergency numbers from software and cloud-based services is not always feasible with existing public safety infrastructure. Obligations should therefore only be imposed when technically possible, for example, when the Member State where a provider operates has established a single public safety answering point (PSAP) for all emergency calls from number-based communications services.

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For more information please contact:

Lionel Sola, Director of Communications and Political Outreach
+32 492 25 84 32 or lionel.sola@digitaleurope.org

Alberto Di Felice, DIGITALEUROPE's Senior Policy Manager for Infrastructure, Privacy and Security
alberto.difelice@digitaleurope.org or +32 2 609 53 10

ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies. DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies.

DIGITALEUROPE's members include in total over 25,000 ICT Companies in Europe represented by over 60 Corporate Members and 38 National Trade Associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: <http://www.digitaleurope.org>

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