

LONDON, Sept. 11, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- The European Commission today announced its proposals for the development of a single telecoms market for Europe. The GSMA acknowledges the commitment and dedication of Commissioner Kroes and her team in developing these proposals against a very tight timeline. However, the GSMA believes that the package announced by the European Commission today needed to focus on measures that address the region's growth, jobs and competitiveness challenges.

"The Commission has rightly identified that increased investment in Europe's telecoms infrastructure is needed to drive progress across all sectors of the economy but, on balance, the package needs to do much more to support this goal," said Anne Bouverot, Director General, GSMA. "A more thorough and comprehensive approach is required and the mobile industry stands ready to contribute to efforts to develop an ambitious shared agenda to underpin Europe's digital economy."

The Communication accompanying the package correctly identifies where progress is still needed, including areas such as consolidation, deregulation and the equal regulatory treatment of companies that provide functionally equivalent services. These are key issues that must be addressed as soon as possible. The Regulation itself does include some positive elements, notably with regards to spectrum, but there remain areas of concern that risk undermining regulatory certainty, clarity and consistency, both for consumers and businesses. Overall, the GSMA believes that the proposals have suffered as a result of the requirement to accelerate procedures to match the pace set by the legislative timetable.

Last week, the GSMA released a report, "Mobile Economy Europe 2013"¹, which confirms that Europe has lost its edge in mobile and is now significantly underperforming other advanced economies, including the United States

and areas of
Asia

. The report also highlights the huge potential gains for
Europe's

economy as mobile technology increasingly transforms sectors such as health, education, transport and energy. To maximise the potential of these developments, the industry needs a forward-looking policy and regulatory framework for telecoms that boosts investment, creates new jobs and drives innovation.

"Reform today will set the context for investment and innovation in Europe's digital economy for the next ten years," continued Bouverot. "It is essential that we get it right and this process should include a comprehensive review of the increasingly outdated regulatory framework for telecoms in Europe.

The right policies are ones that encourage investment, enable innovation and help build consumer confidence. We will continue to support efforts to develop these to help drive Europe

towards a connected future that meets the expectations of its businesses and consumers."

Notes to Editors: 1 The Mobile Economy Europe report provides a comprehensive analysis of the mobile communications industry across Europe as of June 2013. This report was prepared by GSMA Intelligence and is based on GSMA Intelligence data as well as economic impact modelling from Boston Consulting Group. This report focuses on markets within 27 Member States of the European Union (EU) but does not explicitly cover Croatia, which joined the European Union in July 2013.

. The full report is available at www.gsma.com/mobileeconomyeurope

About the GSMA The GSMA represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide. Spanning more than 220 countries, the GSMA unites nearly 800 of the world's mobile operators with 250 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem, including handset and device makers, software companies, equipment providers and Internet companies, as well as organisations in industry sectors such as financial services, healthcare, media, transport and utilities. The GSMA also produces industry-leading events such as Mobile World Congress and Mobile Asia Expo.

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