



PRESS RELEASE

11 April 2011

EP Committee vote on the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme

The swift opening of the digital dividend for mobile services is key for the success of the Digital Agenda for Europe

BRUSSELS – In view of the vote on the report by the rapporteur MEP Gunnar Hökmark, in the EP Committee on Industry, Trade and Research, ETNO and GSMA would like to reiterate the key importance of spectrum to bridge the digital divide and achieve the objectives of the Digital Agenda.

ETNO and GSMA believe that the RSPP is an ambitious and timely instrument which can provide clear indications to all stakeholders on spectrum use and management, thus creating enormous economic, social and cultural benefits to Europe and its citizens. ETNO and GSMA call on the members of the ITRE Committee to support a swift opening up of the digital dividend to mobile broadband services and to work towards a speedy adoption of the programme.

Mobile technology plays a crucial role in reaching the Digital Agenda objectives, ensuring broadband coverage is brought to citizens in all areas, including remote and rural regions. A major constraint for developing mobile broadband networks today, however, is access to radio spectrum. The opening up of the digital dividend will allow the industry to meet the rapidly growing consumer need for mobile data traffic and demand for increased capacity.

ETNO and GSMA members support the European Commission's proposal for the allocation of the 800 MHz band to mobile services throughout Europe from 2013 and for investigating the designation of additional frequency bands that will help in providing broadband coverage in remote and rural areas as well as in indoor environments.

As global operators, ETNO and GSMA members welcome a more harmonised usage of spectrum, allowing for certain authorisations and procedural conditions to be defined in a concerted way between the European Commission and member states.

Finally ETNO and GSMA agree with the European Commission's view that the RSPP should include the consideration of all types of radio spectrum usage and not be restricted to Electronic Communications Services (ECS, which are covered by the Regulatory Framework). We recognise that such principles may need to be implemented progressively.

The contributors to this joint statement are:

	ETNO (the European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association - www.etno.eu) is the voice of the European telecommunications network operators with over a decade of experience in shaping EU telecoms policy. The association represents 40 companies located in 35 European countries. They account for an aggregate annual turnover of more than 250 billion Euros and employ over one million people across Europe. Contact: Caroline Greer, Regulatory Affairs Manager (+3222271083/ greer@etno.be). For press enquiries: Thierry Dieu, Communications Manager (+3222271082/ dieu@etno.be)
	GSMA represents the interests of the worldwide mobile communications industry. Spanning 219 countries, the GSMA unites nearly 800 of the world's mobile operators, as well as more than 200 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem, including handset makers, software companies, equipment providers, Internet companies, and media and entertainment organisations. The GSMA is focused on innovating, incubating and creating new opportunities for its membership, all with the end goal of driving the growth of the mobile communications industry. In the European Union the GSMA represents over 100 operators providing more than 600 million subscriber connections across the region. For more information on GSMA, please visit: Mobile World Live, the new online portal for the mobile communications industry, at www.mobileworldlive.com, GSMA corporate website at www.gsmworld.com, GSMA Europe. Contact: Martin Whitehead, Director, GSMA Europe (+32 2 792 05 50/ MWhitehead@gsm.org). For press enquiries: Claire Cranton, Director, Media Relations (+44 7885 839427/ ccranton@gsm.org)