7 May 2025

Essential Action for Europe's Mobile Future

The European Telecom operators, signatories of this letter, are committed to support Europe's global technology leadership by developing and investing in infrastructure, provided the necessary spectrum resources are made available, and ask for essential action to secure mobile digital connectivity future in Europe.

- **As leading European Telecom operators, we urge Europe to make available the complete upper 6 GHz band for mobile for the benefit of Europe's economy and society.**
- **The upper 6 GHz band is a critical opportunity for launching 6G in Europe and should be an integral part of Europe's future mobile infrastructure.**

Europe's future economic competitiveness and sovereignty depend on fast, reliable and secure digital connectivity. It underpins our civil society, our industry and businesses, and our efforts to meet climate targets.

European Telecom operators remain committed to developing and investing for the future, delivering the connectivity that supports Europe's mobile users, economic objectives, productivity and jobs.

The decisions and the strategic approach that Europe takes now on the upper 6 GHz band will have profound and long-lasting implications on the ability of Europe's telecoms sector to enable that future.

With escalating demands on current spectrum capacity and with future services including 6G on the horizon, it is critical that the entirety of the upper 6 GHz band (6.425-7.125 GHz) is made available to mobile networks.

Mobile alone is expected to contribute to 8.4% of global GDP by 2030[1]. Without access to the upper 6 GHz, mobile's impact on GDP growth will be curtailed significantly.

6 GHz is expected to play a significant role in supporting the deployment of next generation 6G services in Europe. The whole of the upper 6 GHz band would be required for even the first 6G implementations in Europe.

We remain concerned that access to upper 6 GHz band is still sought for Wi-Fi by US stakeholders, despite the recent availability of a new but widely unused block of 480 MHz in the lower 6 GHz band, expressly reserved for this purpose. Telecom operators are the primary providers of Wi-Fi services to European consumers and enterprises, and we do not perceive any current or future Wi-Fi spectrum shortfall.

If the decision to make the upper 6 GHz band available to European mobile operators is delayed, while US technology interests are permitted to secure further 6 GHz capacity, Europe's competitiveness would be threatened. This would stifle the future economic

[1] The Mobile Economy 2025, GSMA

potential of European business and society and ultimately erode Europe's influence over its own digital future and global competitiveness.

Enrico Letta made this clear in his recent report Much More than a Market that 5G and 6G development in Europe is strategically important, highlighting the crucial role of the upper 6 GHz band.

With mobile radio technology in the 6 GHz band designed to operate with 200 MHz carriers, provisioning less than 600 MHz for IMT will prevent networks to operate efficiently and maximise service benefits. Without the full availability of the upper 6 GHz for mobile networks, any future 6G services in this band would be significantly curtailed and ultimately jeopardise Europe's opportunity to play a leading role in 6G deployment. It would also fragment the global ecosystem for 6G, leaving Europe unable to benefit from economies of scale.

At the same time, mobile network traffic continues to grow year on year. European operators project that the urban mobile networks used by citizens and enterprises will reach saturation levels by 2030[2]. With current traffic growth projections, existing mobile spectrum will be needed to sustain 5G services and would not be available to launch 6G.

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) 6G Vision Report outlines its intention to recommend frequency bands to the European Commission to enable the launch of 6G.

There are two possibilities:

1. Finding new spectrum for mobile at the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27) in e.g. the 7-8 GHz band.
2. Using the upper 6 GHz band for 6G launch in Europe.

The RSPG has already acknowledged the challenges of new mobile spectrum at WRC-27 in Europe: *"due to European strategic usages, CEPT opposed at WRC-23 to study frequency bands listed in WRC-27 AI 1.7 except 7125-7250 MHz. This position and European strategic usages that remain valid will impact any future positions to be developed for WRC-27."*

In light of these challenges, using the full upper 6 GHz band for full-power macro-cell mobile deployments is the only way that Europe can ensure its digital connectivity going into the 2030s.

[2] See Connect Europe (former ETNO), GSMA, Telefónica and Vodafone Group responses to RSPG questionnaire on long-term vision for the upper 6 GHz band.

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Alexander Kuchar
Group Chief Technology Officer, A1 Telekom Austria Group

Howard Watson
Chief Security and Networks Officer, BT Group

Abdurazak Mudesir
Group Chief Technology Officer, DTAG

Wouter Stammeijer
Chief Operating Officer, KPN

Sami Komulainen
Executive Vice president Production, Elisa

Laurent Leboucher
Chief Technology Officer, Orange

Geert Standaert
Chief Technology Officer, Proximus

Andrea Folgueiras
Chief Technology & Information Officer, Telefonica S.A.

Alexandra Fürst
Sr. Vice President, Chief Technology & Information Officer, Telia Company

Leonardo Capdeville
Chief Technology Officer, TIM

Željko Batistić
VP Technology of the United Group

Alberto Ripepi
Chief Network Officer, Vodafone Group