**SUMMARY**

The operators are currently faced with a number of challenges that causes an increasing disparity of costs and revenues of new network features, increased complexity of the network deployments, etc. The telecom network operators launched the concept to implement the network functions within software running on standard Servers, Storage platforms, and Ethernet Switches – leveraging the IT virtualization. The NFV Strategic network paradigms create network abstractions and competitive supply of 3rd party applications and leads to agility of network deployments. In this context NFV and SDN are highly complementary and they are mutually beneficial but not dependent on each other.

The ETSI Industry Specification Group (ISG) Network Functions Virtualization develops the specifications in the area of the Infrastructure, Software architecture, management & orchestration and reliability capabilities within NFV. The specifications are intended to be delivered 1st half of 2014 and will address NFV requirements, use cases and the end-to-end architecture.

ETSI ISG NFV activities will also include a realization/implementation phase, which will focus on trials and proof-of-concepts. The objective is to ensure that the NFV effort is not a standards exercise that no one builds to, or is so far out of touch with what's out there – that it becomes infeasible.