

## **High Level Session on 'ITU enabling the wireless ecosystem' WSIS Forum 2017, 12 June 2017, 16h30 – 18h15**

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### **'ITUs role on shaping the future wireless ecosystem'**

I consider the ITU role on shaping the future wireless ecosystem of paramount importance for the success of this new ecosystem. As the ITU is the organization for worldwide frequency spectrum coordination, it cannot be envisaged the creation of wireless systems without its valuable contribution in this context as well as the creation of standards and development activities to promote the use of new technologies and electronic communications services. The future wireless system is a new paradigm for communications whose enabler are the 5G networks.

From a regulator's point of view, the most important factor to consider is the design of new approaches and new processes to address the challenges put forward by the new paradigm. We are already feeling the pressure of being part of a wider economic and social system and we must integrate into it as actors and not just as the referee. Agility in addressing new issues affecting the markets and our own internal operations is also a major challenge, as the issues are placed in front of us almost on a daily basis.

We must now work closer than ever with industrial partners, standards organizations, academia, research and development institutions and find new ways to address the 'verticals', i.e., the 5G applications that are now at the core of the wireless ecosystem.

Nonetheless, traditional regulatory actions such as spectrum allocation, technical harmonization, licensing models, privacy and security will continue to be important. Consequently, we must now take into account with increased importance what comes before the aforementioned traditional regulatory activities.

The investment in 5G networks will also be a major concern. However, the evaluation of investments will have to be done within each regional and national reality.

Measures for spectrum allocation for 5G are actually one of the major lines of work in regulatory authorities. As members of the EU, we fully embrace the approved strategy for the digital single market. As such, I point out the “5G Action Plan” and the “Connectivity for a Competitive Digital Single Market - Towards a European Gigabit Society” initiatives as major enablers of the new wireless ecosystem. These initiatives present the strategic objectives for connectivity up to 2025 and provide the basis for the ‘Gigabit Society’.

The main goals are:

- All major social and economic agents must have access to gigabit rated connection, allowing users the download and upload at least at 1 gigabit/second;
- All households across Europe must have available a connection of at least 100 Mbps downstream, upgradeable to speeds in the order of gigabits/second;
- All urban areas and major road and railway lines must have seamless and continuous 5G coverage. An intermediate objective for 5G is to have it commercially available in at least one major city of each EU member-state by 2020.

These objectives are to be attained under three measures:

- A. WiFi4EU – a regulatory proposal by the European Council and European Parliament to promote Internet connectivity in all local communications and public areas;
- B. The 5G action plan; and,
- C. The proposed directive of a European Code for electronic communications.

Some frequency utilization matters that are also relevant: the duration of licenses, the calendar for spectrum allocation and the establishment of associated governance policies.

As stakeholders of this new ecosystem with a greater social dimension, NRA’s and the ITU must continue to work together in defining inclusive standards. Here a special word must be said to provide users with disabilities the same level of access as all other end users regarding

publicly available telephone services, including access to emergency services, directory enquiry services and directories.

I firmly believe that the coordination and collaboration with the ITU in this context does provide a role for us all in shaping the future of the new wireless ecosystem.