BTO: meeting with Huawei and CNECT Dir. E - 17/SEPT/2021 12:00-12:40 – Virtual

Huawei Participants:

[redacted]

Participants from Directorate E:

- Pearse O'Donohue (CNECT E Director),
- [redacted] (CNECT E1)

Main topics discussed:

This meeting was requested by Huawei to introduce [redacted]

personal data

[redacted] mentioned that Huawei is supporting the operators, which were successful in handling the increased traffic during the pandemic and is following the attentively developments in cybersecurity with common criteria certification. [redacted] iterated the willingness of Huawei to work together with EU entities (companies) and EC for 5G implementations and 6G research.

The Commission (POD) welcomed [redacted], and stated that it was important to be able to discuss current issues given the investments of Huawei in Europe. Security challenges remain high on the agenda and, in this context, Open RAN is an issue attracting a lot of attention.

Huawei mentioned the pressure facing telecom industries, with constantly decreasing rates of return, and that several companies have disappeared (Lucent, Siemens). In this context, suppliers will be facing even tougher conditions with Open RAN. Even though not opposed to it, Open RAN is not part of the 3GPP standard and it presents several potential shortcomings in performance, power consumption and cybersecurity. Huawei is willing to work with the MNOs (such as Vodafone, Telefonica and Orange, who are behind the MoU supporting Open RAN); they have however a clear preference for standardised solutions.

In this context, Huawei is very supportive of the 5G and 6G standardisation process within the 3GPP. [redacted] commercial interests

[redacted] Decision making process

Huawei signaled that they are in favour of open source and they are a core member of ONAP. They are aware of the issue of energy efficiency and they are working on it developing architectures, algorithms and materials. They employ 300 scientists on cooling technologies. By 2025 power consumption for telecommunications will represent 2% of the global power consumption, with another 2% due to Data centres. A target of 20 % higher efficiency would reduce global power consumption by 1%.

Huawei expressed their willingness to arrange further meetings, including workshops in order to go into more detail on technical matters.

[redacted]