



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of President Ursula von der Leyen
Member of Cabinet

Brussels, 30 November 2020
CA.1.CAB STAFF/

SHORT NOTES OF A MEETING

Subject: Vodafone on 4 March 2020 (5G security, Internet of Things, digital gatekeepers, data strategy)

I met with

Vodafone (V) would favour a vendor-agnostic and objective security certification system.

A path is needed to sustainable vendor diversity over time, with a long 4G-5G cohabitation in networks. OpenRAN will give telcos more options, but currently only available for 4G. Possible IPCEI potential. US investing massively in OpenRAN, in US and Africa. European equipment players should engage.

Low RoI on telecoms in Europe ($<WACC$) means constant cost pressure on vendors, which impedes premium investment in security.

Cybersecurity in Europe is a much wider problem than 5G equipment, and needs massive additional investment. Across Europe, very different levels of public investment, and of interaction with private operators. In 5 years, IoT will be everywhere and largely sourced in Asia.

For IoT, Europe can lead, but need to avoid legacy telecom regulatory requirements.

Data strategy should focus on voluntary sharing. B2G data sharing should not appropriate too much. Avoid data localisation. V sees good momentum in discussion on digital gatekeepers.

Concerns re developments in some EU national markets (PT, CZ spectrum auction criteria).

e-signed -
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