Meeting Commissioner Breton and GSMA Europe on 10 October 2022

Title: Meeting between Commissioner Breton and GSMA Europe on 10 October 2022

Participants:

- **Commission Participants:** Commissioner Thierry Breton, Filomena Chirico (Member of Cabinet), Rita Wezenbeek (Director Connectivity), Unit B1 – Electronic Communications Policy

- **Third parties' participants:** Telefonica, GSMA; Orange Group; Deutsche Telekom; TIM Group; Telenor Group; Vodafone Group; Telefónica; Orange Group; Deutsche Telekom; Vodafone Group; TIM Group; Mobile for Development Foundation, GSMA.

Main topics discussed:

This meeting followed a virtual roundtable held at the beginning of 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to have an exchange regarding the state of the sector and current and future challenges and opportunities and to reflect on the impact that on-going and future changes will have on the network infrastructure.

- **GSMA** recalled the importance of connectivity as the underlying infrastructure needed for businesses and people to work, study, entertain, interact, etc and how much this was emphasised during the pandemic. GSMA shares a common vision for the sector and the future of this infrastructure and stressed the sense of urgency to seize the upcoming opportunities and to enable EU to lead in this regard.

- **Telefonica** depicted the upcoming technological and market developments as a real game changer. 5G stand-alone will allow cloudification and softwarisation of networks from the core to the access part, in turn allowing to incorporate very innovative new technologies such as quantum, blockchain, etc.
Overall, the GSMA Europe call for urgent action to rebalance the level playing field and to ensure that all digital players benefitting from the digital transformation fairly contribute to network deployment. This is critical to unlock massive investments into critical infrastructure and new innovative technologies and to enable the telecom sector to lead this change.

**Operational conclusions:**

Commissioner Breton stressed the importance of reflecting and agreeing on a common vision regarding the sector overall. He stressed the importance of defining the infrastructure that will be needed in the future, taking into account market and technological developments such as metaverse/immersive technologies to name a few, and to ensure EU leads on the technological developments, as well as to define what it takes, including in terms of investments and who should contribute, to develop it. On these basis, new rules, starting from the rights and principles of the proposed European Declaration, can be also defined. Commissioner Breton also stressed the importance of considering the problems based on concrete facts and figures and invited GSMA to provide these as well as to share their own reflections about the broader vision. He also mentioned the intention to broadly consult stakeholders.