SUMMARY OF MEETING

Where & when: Brussels, Belgium, 11/09/2017, 16h00-17h00

Who: Carl-Christian Buhr, Deputy Head of Cabinet Gabriel, received and discussed issues related to Huawei.

Topics: Company presentation, cybersecurity

Discussion:

Presented his company's position and development over the last few years, in particular in Europe where it now has more than 11,000 employees, many of them in the area of R&D. He pointed out that Huawei is the largest privately owned Chinese company (it is owned by its employees as shareholders). He went into some detail on specific public procurement issues in the US (where the big telecom companies do not buy equipment from Huawei even though earlier alleged concerns about insecure equipment were never substantiated) and in the UK (where Huawei has overcome a similar problem by funding a whole testing center but is convinced that such a solution would not scale on account of its large costs).

Referring to the upcoming cybersecurity strategy, and various rumours circulating with regard to its content, stated that his company is very interested in contributing to the new "Competence Centre" that he expected the Commission to announce. In this context, he recalled that Huawei had been one of the founding partners of the 5G PPP in 2014. Huawei is also convinced that European cybersecurity certification schemes are a necessity and would support a Commission proposal going in this direction. Finally, enquired about the status of a meeting request of Huawei, for Commissioner Gabriel. Mr Buhr thanked the visitors for the detailed presentation and also for the general support for the Commission's initiative in the area of cybersecurity. He invited to share his impressions once the cybersecurity proposals would have been published. He also promised to check the status of the meeting request.