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Subject: Readout | Commissioner Breton at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona 27/02/2023

Readout of meeting between Commissioner Thierry Breton and Intel CEO at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona

On 27th February 2023, Commissioner Thierry Breton and Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger met at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. During the meeting, the Commissioner and Mr Gelsinger discussed the global semiconductor industry outlook and took stock of investments in the EU value chain for semiconductors, an important input for the transformation of the connectivity sector.

Readout | Commissioner Breton at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona

On 27th February 2023, Commissioner for the Internal Market, Thierry Breton, participated to the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. Commissioner Breton opened the Congress with the keynote speech "Gigabit Europe - Getting ready to lead the connectivity revolution" and invited all stakeholders to contribute to shaping this disruptive transformation and reply to the exploratory consultation launched on 23 February 2023.

Commissioner Breton also held a series of bilateral meetings with institutional and business stakeholders to discuss the future of the connectivity sector in Europe. Notably, he met with Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and Commissioner Brendan Carr of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, to exchange on the EU and US approaches to finance investments in the connectivity infrastructure of the future. Commissioner Breton also exchanged with representatives of undertakings across the whole connectivity value chain, from chips makers to telecos and traffic generators, meeting with Ms Margherita Della Valle, CEO of Vodafone; Mr Tim Hoettges, CEO of Deutsche Telekom; Mr José María Álvarez-Pallete, CEO of Telefonica; Ms Christel Heydemann, CEO of Orange; Meinrad Spenger, Masmovil CEO; Pietro Labriola, CEO of Telecom Italia; and Greg Peters, CEO of Netflix.

Finally, Commissioner Breton visited the European Quantum Space, the stand of the European Quantum Flagship initiative, displaying the first tangible results of research and innovation activities funded by Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe EU funding programmes.

Background

On 23 February 2023, the Commission has launched a broad exploratory consultation on the future of the connectivity sector and its infrastructure. The aim is to gather views on the changing technological and market landscape and how it may affect the sector for electronic communications and the related regulatory framework.

In particular, it seeks to identify the types of infrastructure needed for Europe to keep ahead of transformative technological developments and to lead its digital transformation in the coming years. The consultation also seeks stakeholders' views on how to ensure that the investments required to roll out such infrastructure are timely mobilised across the Union. In this context, the exploratory consultation is part of an open dialogue with all stakeholders about the potential need for all players benefitting from the digital transformation to fairly contribute to the investments in connectivity infrastructure. This is a complex issue which requires a comprehensive analysis of the underlying facts and figures. The Commission is strongly committed to protecting a neutral and open internet.

Finally, the consultation covers the issue on how to ensure affordability of connectivity for consumers and how to progress towards a more integrated Single Market for the connectivity sector.

All interested organisations, businesses and citizens are invited to complete the survey within 12 weeks. The deadline for submitting a contribution is 19 May 2023. The Commission will report on the results in fall 2023.