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## **CESI — Trade Council Post and Telecom**

**Luxemburg, 13 December 2013**

### **Resolution**

#### ***A digital single market not at the expense of employment nor of a social Europe***

The Trade Council Post and Telecom of CESI takes a negative position against the final proposal for a Directive of the European Commission on the establishment of a digital single market [COM(2013)627 final]. The planned objectives – promotion of growth and investments –, which CESI welcomes in principle, can by no means be accomplished through the measures which are proposed. On the contrary, the European telecom sector, which has already been lagging far behind, risks to be weakened even more through the EC's activities. Thus the sector risks to become a target to be taken over by non-European concerns which do not aim for safeguarding a social Europe but for maximising their profits.

Moreover, there is reason for concern that, as a result of the financial implications of the planned measures for European concerns, jobs will be lost and/or working conditions and salaries in the sector will sincerely deteriorate because it has become impossible to proceed to necessary price increases on the market.

By referring to the reduction of roaming costs, the proposal for a directive throws dust in people's eyes and the attention of the citizens is distracted from the negative effects of the directive.

When telecom companies are deprived of their income as a result of regulation, the EU member states will have to invest a lot of money in their future networks in order to catch up with the latest digital developments and this, considering the ongoing financial crisis, is rather improbable.

The proposals include three big elements which may have negative effects on the companies' financial power and investment preparedness:

- 1.) Decreasing international calling costs within the EU
- 2.) Successive reductions of roaming costs
- 3.) Enlarged consumer protection

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#### **Confédération Européenne des Syndicats Indépendants**

European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions ★ Confederazione dei Sindacati Indipendenti  
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These measures deprive companies from the income they need for the elaboration of their broadband networks. The apparent reduction of costs for the customers will lead, seen as a whole, to price increases in the years to come.

Moreover, article 3 can endanger employment in Europe, unless provisions are included, guaranteeing the legitimacy of workers rights and collective bargaining agreements in the countries where the investments take place.

The predicted loss in turnover will lead to a further decrease in infrastructure investments and, as a result, will make the objectives of the digital agenda unattainable. According to a study performed by Boston Consulting Group, up to 5.5 million jobs would be endangered in Europe if those objectives were not realised.

The Trade Council Post and Telecom of CESI supports in principle the realisation of a digital single market. However, this may not happen at the expense of the workers nor customers.

The Trade Council Post and Telecom of CESI therefore demands:

1. The creation of a committee for the evaluation of the economic consequences of regulation in the telecommunication sector (CEREST). Once more the Trade Council herewith repeats its demand, which it has already been formulating for many years, for the creation of CEREST.
2. The employment, working conditions and salaries cannot be endangered by the realisation of the digital single market. For this reason, the trade unions of the separate member states should to be allowed to take part in the decision-making.
3. The EU must ensure that, by means of investments in continuous education, the quality of employment in Europe remains at a high level, so that the personnel of the telecommunication sector will also be sure of their employment in the future.
4. The EU has to create the framework conditions for a digital single market in a way that these do not hinder investments and make it possible for companies to draw profits from their products, which can be reinvested.

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