

Budapest, 4 May 2009

**DÁNIEL PATAKI, HEAD OF EUROPEAN SPECTRUM REGULATORS AND ECTA
DISCUSS “BROADBAND FOR ALL”**

At a meeting today in Budapest, Dániel Pataki, chairman of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG), bringing together Member States’ national spectrum regulators, and head of the Hungarian telecoms regulator NHH, and members of ECTA (European Competitive Telecommunications Association), representing European telecoms companies discussed how the so-called “digital dividend” and next generation networks such as wireless broadband can help achieve “broadband for all”. EU-wide broadband access will be key to ensuring growth and innovation in the EU telecoms sector and can benefit the economy as a whole.

“To give every EU citizen access to high-speed Internet is a decisive step forward for the EU’s economy and growth”, Mr Pataki said. “To do so, Europe needs the telecoms industry’s active involvement as well as a well-designed regulatory framework ensuring competition, legal certainty while encouraging innovation and investment”, he added. Innocenzo Genna, Chairman of ECTA continued “Consumers will only benefit from high speeds and innovative products if independent regulators ensure that broadband markets are truly competitive. Genna highlighted that “There will be only few competing superfast networks as new networks will be very costly and prime spectrum for mobile broadband scarce. But this cannot be allowed to limit competition in the market. Consumer choice, competitive prices and innovation will emerge only if these networks are kept open.” At EU level, the European Commission is working on initiatives on digital dividend, next generation networks and wireless broadband, three areas that will support the roll-out of broadband. The RSPG, closely involved in the process, is providing advice to the Commission and the industry is regularly consulted.

Wireless broadband is part of this new generation of communication networks that will allow high speed circulation of large quantities of data. To do so, wireless broadband networks need radio spectrum. Now, as the EU is switching from analogue to digital broadcasting, a number of frequencies will be freed up. Parts of this so-called “digital dividend” could be used for developing wireless broadband. To ensure that the EU makes the best use of the scarce cross-border resource radio spectrum, the European Commission is preparing a communication on the digital dividend and a roadmap on wireless broadband, in close cooperation with national spectrum authorities.

During today’s meeting, Mr Pataki made it clear that the digital dividend and wireless broadband were the two priorities of his RSPG chairmanship and updated ECTA representatives on the RSPG’s work: *“The RSPG has put a lot of energy into these two interrelated dossiers and I believe our recommendations, based on our technical expertise and knowledge of local markets, will give the Commission helpful advice on how the EU should proceed.”* The RSPG will present its recommendations at its plenary on 13 May 2009. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on them.

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) was created by a European Commission Decision in 2002. Bringing the spectrum authorities of the 27 EU Member States together

with the Commission, the RSPG provides the Commission with advice on high level policy matters in relation to spectrum. Representatives of the EEA countries, the European Parliament and the regional and international bodies may attend as observers. Before being transmitted to the Commission, the RSPG's expert opinions are submitted to public consultations of all spectrum users, both commercial and non-commercial, as well as any other interested stakeholders. The RSPG therefore constitutes a unique platform for Member States, the Commission and all relevant stakeholders to discuss and co-ordinate regulation.

About ECTA

The European Competitive Telecommunications Association (ECTA) looks after the regulatory and commercial interests of new entrant telecoms operators, ISPs and suppliers of products and services to the communications industry.

ECTA works for a fair regulatory environment that allows all electronic communications providers to compete on level terms in order to multiply investment and innovation throughout an effective European internal market. The association represents the telecommunications industry to key government and regulatory bodies and maintains a forum for networking and business development.

ECTA member companies include operators, service providers and suppliers as well as National Associations of such which all contribute towards regulatory policy development and participate in our comprehensive range of networking events, conferences, seminars, briefings and executive meetings.

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