

ecta appoints new Board Directors and embarks on new strategic vision

Brussels, 02 April 2020. On Monday, 30 March 2020, **ecta** held its Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) followed by a Board meeting. The OGM elected Carl Grivner, Chief Executive Officer of Colt Technology Services and Dr Marc Schütze, Member of the Executive Board of Drillisch Netz AG, a company of 1&1 Drillisch AG, as new Directors of the Board of **ecta**.

The Board of Directors re-elected Emmanuel Forest for a further term of office as Chairman of the Board and elected Neven Dilkov, Managing Director, Neterra Ltd. as Vice-Chairman.

In addition, the OGM not only reviewed the **ecta** achievements for 2019 and discussed the 2020 priorities and Action Plan, it also approved **ecta**'s strategic vision for the future.

The **ecta** vision results from a strategic planning exercise with the active involvement of **ecta** members and led by Director General, Luc Hindryckx. It is expressed as follows:

“In a competitive European digital sector, every citizen is included and operators are drivers for innovation that guarantee Europe’s competitiveness and digital sovereignty. By promoting a pro-competitive European regulatory framework, **ecta wants to be the driving force behind it by capitalising on its expertise and the active collaboration and engagement with its members.”**

Commenting on the new strategic vision, Emmanuel Forest said: *“Having to deal with a new Commission, it was time to renew our message and vision. More than ever, we must reaffirm the importance of competition to promote a vibrant Gigabit society. As we are fully committed to providing citizens with a high quality and continuity of telecommunications services in the Covid-19 crisis and beyond, we are fully engaged in developing those services to assist our customers in the economic post-crisis recovery”*

Neven Dilkov, focussing on the importance to increase competition in the business markets, commented: *“I am happy to be able to strengthen my engagement with **ecta** as Vice-Chairman. The European telecommunication market needs a great competition improvement and **ecta**, as a key representative of the interests of small and medium-sized operators in Europe, will continue to work with the European Commission and the Parliament to make this process much more successful. I commit to everyone in the industry to contribute and help create much better conditions in all markets in Europe. Competition and hard work will defeat monopolies everywhere.”*

Commenting on the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis, Carl Grivner said: *“The dramatic and unexpected shift in how most of us are now working and living happened swiftly and is set to continue for the foreseeable future. This is why I am engaged within the **ecta** Board to promote the pro-competitive values that **ecta** defends. They demonstrate their relevance now more than ever, especially in the business markets, where resilient and scalable connectivity to data centres is key for service providers and other critical societal actors”.*

Dr Marc Schütze added: *“Competitive telecommunications operators have been the drivers for increased resilience and redundancy of fixed and mobile networks, which now allow economic*

activity to continue, alongside online education and social contact, besides the fundamental role of allowing citizens to remain updated on the crisis.”

ecta, its membership and the Board of Directors wish to express their fullest appreciation to Martin Witt, whose term of office as Board Director and Vice-Chairman came to an end, for his engagement and valuable contributions.

Furthermore, in the middle of this unprecedented pandemic crisis, **ecta** and the Board of Directors reiterate the engagement of **ecta** members that are all hands on deck working around the clock watching out for the networks and their users. Competitive telecommunications operators hugely contribute to network resilience and redundancy to assure service continuity not only for the citizens and enterprises - large and small - but also ensuring resilient connectivity to the data centres and for those on the front line, the health actors.

The members of the **ecta** Board are:

Emmanuel Forest, Executive Vice-President European and Institutional Affairs, Bouygues Group - Chairman

Neven Dilkov, Managing Director, Neterra Ltd - Vice-Chairman

Cem Mehmet Çelebiler, Managing Director, Turknet İletişim Hizmetleri A.S.

Carl Grivner, CEO, Colt Technology Services

Dr. Marc Schütze, Member of the Executive Board, Drillisch Netz AG

Meinrad Spenger, CEO, Masmovil

Malgorzata Zakrzewska, Director of Public Affairs, PLAY

Emmanuel Forest, Chairman

Bouygues Group

Executive Vice-President, European and Public Affairs



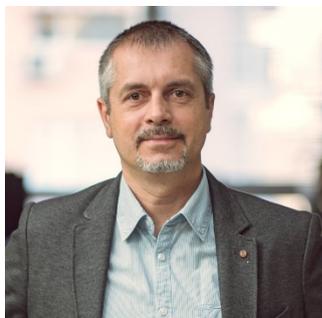
Emmanuel Forest is Executive Vice-President, European and Public Affairs for the Bouygues group. He is responsible for the group's institutional relations, particularly with the EU institutions, and is Chief Executive Officer of Bouygues Europe SA in Brussels. He is also President of the ECTP (European Construction Technology Platform).

Emmanuel Forest is a graduate of both the École Polytechnique (1975) and the ENA (1981). He started his career at the French Ministry of Education and then became a technical advisor to the Secretary of State in charge of universities. He then joined the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1986 as a special advisor to the Ministerial Counsellor for Culture, Science and Co-operation.

In 1989, Emmanuel Forest joined the Bouygues group as Director reporting to senior management before becoming Corporate Secretary of Bouygues Bâtiment International in 1990 and of Bouygues Telecom in 1994, after the operator was awarded its licence. He was subsequently appointed Executive Vice-President in 1998 and Deputy CEO & Deputy Chairman of Bouygues Telecom in 2007.

Neven Dilkov, Vice-Chairman

Neterra Ltd.
Managing Director



Neven Dilkov is an entrepreneur and investor. Educated in China, Bulgaria and the USA, he worked in Chicago and Sofia.

He is the founder of Neterra - one of the first independent Internet providers in Bulgaria.

Neven Dilkov has 25 years of experience in the telecom industry. He participates in the governing bodies of a number of organizations such as the Bulgarian Telecommunications Operators' Association (BABTO), the Electronic Communications Association, the Access to Information Program, etc. He is a member of the Expert Public Council

for Management of Registers ".bg" and ".bg" of the Bulgarian Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications.

Neven Dilkov is also the founder of NetIX - a global Ethernet services exchange. Together with partners and colleagues, he created and developed large-scale business projects, such as Neterra.TV, Cloudware.bg, NetFleet.bg, Sofia Data Center.

He is a mentor at <http://www.launchhub.com>, a Euro Seed & Acceleration fund that invests in startup companies. Neven Dilkov speaks English, Mandarin Chinese and Bulgarian.

Carl Grivner, Member of the Board

Colt Technology Services
Chief Executive Officer



Carl Grivner was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Colt in January 2016.

He brings more than 25 years of leadership experience in the telecommunications and technology industry to Colt. This includes 12 years' operating at the level of CEO for major companies in North and Central America, Europe, and Asia.

Carl joined Colt having spent three years in Singapore as CEO of Pacnet, where he directed the global strategy of one of Asia's leading end-to-end communications service providers.

Prior to that, Carl was CEO of XO Communications, a US network provider, where he played a key role in transforming the business from a local exchange carrier to a national carrier.

Carl also headed the North American operations of Cable & Wireless plc (Western Hemisphere) as CEO. He has previously held various senior management positions in Ameritech and IBM.

Dr. Marc Schütze, Member of the board

Drillisch Netz AG
Member of the Executive Board



Since January 2016, Dr. Schütze has been Member of the Executive Board of Drillisch Netz AG, a company of 1&1 Drillisch AG, and is responsible for setting up the mobile network infrastructure including building up the 5G mobile network as well as for telecommunications and cartel law including regulation in the 1&1 Drillisch Group. From 2005 to December 2015 he was a partner at JUCONOMY Attorneys at Law and from 2007 to 2011 he was a practising European attorney admitted to practice in Vienna. His main practice areas were telecommunications regulatory and antitrust law as well as telecommunications contract law and he was highly recommended in all legal rankings, e.g. JUVE, Legal 500, GlobalChambers, etc. He has been active both in an advisory and forensic capacity, has written more than 50 publications in telecommunications articles and commentaries and was also a lecturer at the University of Düsseldorf for many years. Since 2002 he was a lawyer with Juconomy Attorneys at Law, in the Düsseldorf and Vienna offices, and before that with Freshfields in Düsseldorf. Dr. Schütze is also member of the board of the German association for competitors VATM e.V.

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ecta members are united in their belief that competition is the best driver of efficient investments and the greatest enabler of innovation, choice and benefits for citizens and businesses, as well as for the European economy overall. This is the key message that **ecta** and its members promote.

*For further information on the contents of this press release and **ecta's** positions, contact:*

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ecta, the [european competitive telecommunications association](http://www.ectaportal.com) (www.ectaportal.com), is the pan-European pro-competitive trade association that represents more than 100 of the leading challenger telecoms operators and digital solutions providers across Europe. For more than two decades, **ecta** has been supporting the regulatory and commercial interests of telecoms operators, ISPs & equipment manufacturers in pursuit of a fair regulatory environment that allows all electronic communications providers to compete on level terms. Our members have been and are the leading innovators in Internet services, broadband, business communications, entertainment and mobile.