

ecta endorses the Joint Statement by EU and Ukrainian operators on connectivity in support of refugees from Ukraine



Brussels, 8 April 2022. *At a virtual event today, telecom operators based in the EU and in Ukraine have signed a Joint Statement on their coordinated efforts to secure and stabilise affordable roaming and international calls between the EU and Ukraine.*

Since the first days of this crisis, telecom operators, including the **ecta** members, are all hands-on deck to ensure connectivity across the board. Several Telecom operators based in the EU have immediately implemented measures on a voluntary basis. They have distributed millions of SIM cards free of charge to refugees from Ukraine, enabled free roaming and provided free WiFi and charging in border areas or shelters, waived or reduced international call charges, to mention but a few.

To further show their willingness to help and support Ukrainians in these tragic circumstances, European and Ukrainian operators have signed a Joint Statement to establish a coordinated approach to ensure that they can continue to provide affordable connectivity to refugees from Ukraine.

The following **ecta** members have already signed the joint statement: Bouygues Telecom, Colt Technology Services, Fastweb, Groupe Iliad including Play, Grupo Más Móvil, Neterra, and Transatel. Other operators may still join.

Luc Hindryckx, Director General of **ecta** commented: *"Facing the tragic situation the Ukrainian population is confronted with, the **ecta** members could not stand by and do nothing. We all hope that wisdom will prevail, and that peace will be given a fair chance so that the dramatic situation will end soon."*

ecta is grateful to Executive Vice President Vestager and Commissioner Breton for their leadership. **ecta** thanks DG Connect and BEREC for their intense work and commitment and looks forward to continuing to work together to help separate families to stay connected.

More information about the voluntary actions taken by the **ecta** members can be found [here](#)

The Joint Statement can be downloaded [here](#) and the European Commission Press Release [here](#)

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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 continuously promote.

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

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ecta, the **European Competitive Telecommunications Association** (www.ectaportal.com), represents those alternative operators who, relying on the pro-competitive EU legal framework that has created a free market for electronic communications, have helped overcome national monopolies to give EU citizens, businesses and public administrations quality and choice at affordable prices. **ecta** represents at large those operators who are driving the development of an accessible Gigabit society, who represent significant investments in fixed, mobile and fixed wireless access networks that qualify as Very High Capacity Networks and who demonstrate unique innovation capabilities.