

ecta welcomes the association of Spanish telecommunications competitors to the European family

Brussels, 5 June 2019: ASTEL (La Asociación de Empresas Operadoras y de Servicios de Telecomunicaciones - The Association of Telecommunication Operators and Service Providers) the Spanish association gathering alternative electronic communication providers joins [ecta](#) as **Affiliate Member.**

Commenting on the motivation for joining the EU's leading trade association for the promotion of competitive electronic communications markets, ASTEL Director General, Carmen González, underlined: *'We are proud to join [ecta](#) because we, too, have as our primary objective to ensure and increase market competitiveness. We therefore consider it very important to give our association a voice at the European level to ensure that the diversity and innovation that our members bring to the market in this regard is noticed and our interests are effectively represented in Brussels. This is crucial at a time when some are already reigning in the end of sectoral pro-competitive regulation. We trust [ecta](#) with its advocacy for a fair regulatory environment allowing all electronic communications providers, new and old, to compete on level terms to safeguard the objectives and values we stand for.'*

In his welcome to ASTEL, Luc Hindryckx, [ecta](#) Director General stated: *'We are thrilled to further grow our representativeness in the Spanish market. Being characterised by one of the strongest European FTTH environments, ASTEL's membership illustrates that competition should never been taken for granted, especially when looking forward to the emergence of 5G services. The European Society will harvest most benefit from the digital age with a strong, diversified and competitive electronic communication market that can serve the entire economy.'*

ASTEL and [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, businesses and the public sector, as well as for the European economy and society overall.

As new technologies and services emerge, policymakers must remain vigilant that competitive choice continues to thrive and that the digital ecosystem evolves in a competitively sustainable manner.

ABOUT ASTEL



[ASTEL](#) was established in 1996 with the primary objective to promote the liberalization of the Spanish telecommunication's market and since then, it has been the leading spokesperson for new service providers entering the market.

ASTEL is the most representative association of this sector specialising in telecommunication law and regulation and is working towards ensuring and increasing the market's competitiveness by contributing to the development of telecommunications in Spain, promoting the principle of freedom to access the telecommunications market and consolidating efforts against any activity or measure that could restrict the competitiveness in the telecommunications sector.

*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** (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.