Europe needs more competition and investment for connectivity and communication services.

Brussels, 23 October 2017

BRUSSELS (23 October 2017) – DIGITALEUROPE welcomes that the creation of a first-rate digital infrastructure and the timely deployment of 5G across Europe are on the top of the EU political agenda, including at the highest political level as shown by last week's European Council Conclusions.

DIGITALEUROPE appreciates the call from national leaders last week for allowing sufficient resources and time to finalize the upcoming interinstitutional negotiations on the Electronic Communications Code.

We urge the co-legislators to bring the current texts on the negotiating table back in line with the original objectives.

- Guarantee a clear and consistent regulatory framework to foster infrastructure-based competition and create investment incentives for all players.
- Increase coordination on the availability and management of spectrum, under transparent and consistent rules. This is an essential prerequisite for 5G deployment.
- Take an innovation-friendly and forward-looking approach to digital communication services, including for M2M and Internet of Things.

In both the Council and European Parliament's positions, there are too many gaps between the above-mentioned principles and the original objectives of the Commission's proposal. It is therefore crucial that negotiations are not rushed and that the co-legislators find the necessary compromises to re-align the Code with its key objectives, thereby enabling the industry to jointly deliver 5G and to make the gigabit society a reality

A hasty conclusion of the EECC discussions could risk rolling back important changes that would have made the regulation more targeted, proportionate and focused. The ambition of the EU heads of state, to be a leader and not a laggard in 5G and the Gigabit Society, will struggle to reach its potential if we stick with the status quo.

For more information please contact:
Lionel Sola, Director of Political Outreach & Communications
+32 492 25 84 32 or lionel.sola@digitaleurope.org

Jochen Mistiaen, Policy Manager
+32 496 20 54 11 or jochen.mistiaen@digitaleurope.org

ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies. DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies.

DIGITALEUROPE's members include in total 25,000 ICT Companies in Europe represented by 61 corporate members and 37 national trade associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: http://www.digitaleurope.org

DIGITALEUROPE MEMBERSHIP

Corporate Members

Adobe, Airbus, Amazon, AMD, Apple, BlackBerry, Bose, Brother, CA Technologies, Canon, Cisco, Dell, Dropbox, Epson, Ericsson, Fujitsu, Google, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Hitachi, HP Inc., Huawei, IBM, Intel, JVC Kenwood Group, Konica Minolta, Kyocera, Lenovo, Lexmark, LG Electronics, Loewe, Microsoft, Mitsubishi Electric Europe, Motorola Solutions, MSD Europe Inc., NEC, Nokia, Nvidia Ltd., Océ, Oki, Oracle, Panasonic Europe, Philips, Pioneer, Qualcomm, Ricoh Europe PLC, Samsung, SAP, SAS, Schneider Electric, Sharp Electronics, Siemens, Sony, Swatch Group, Tata Consultancy Services, Technicolor, Texas Instruments, Toshiba, TP Vision, VMware, Western Digital, Xerox, Zebra Technologies.

National Trade Associations

Austria: IOÖ
Belarus: INFOPARK
Belgium: AGORIA
Bulgaria: BAIT
Cyprus: CITEA
Denmark: DI Digital, IT-BRANCHEN
Estonia: ITL
Finland: TIF
France: AFNUM, Force Numérique, Tech in France
Germany: BITKOM, ZVEI

Greece: SEPE
Hungary: IVSZ
Ireland: TECHNOLOGY IRELAND
Italy: ANITEC
Lithuania: INFOBALT
Netherlands: Nederland ICT, FIAR
Poland: KIGEIT, PIIT, ZIPSEE
Portugal: AGEFE
Romania: ANIS, APDETIC
Slovakia: ITAS

Slovenia: GZS
Spain: AMETIC
Sweden: Foreningen Teknikföretagen i Sverige, IT&Telekomföretagen
Switzerland: SWICO
Turkey: Digital Turkey Platform, ECID
Ukraine: IT UKRAINE
United Kingdom: techUK