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Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Telecommunications): extracts from the press conference

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The European Ministers in charge of Telecommunications gathered today in Luxembourg. They held a debate on the role of the telecommunications and the information and communication technologies sectors within the framework of the Digital Agenda for Europe. The debate was intended to contribute to the preparation of the October European Council, which will focus on innovation and on the digital agenda as a contribution to re-launch growth in Europe. Ministers were also expected to take stock of the state of play and discuss a proposed directive aimed at ensuring a high common level of security of electronic communications networks and information systems across the Union. The proposal is part of the European cyber-security strategy as outlined by the European Commission.



Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
00:00:00	Title	00:00:05
00:00:05	General view of the press conference	00:00:10
00:00:15	SOUNDBITE (English) by Pat Rabbitte, Irish Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources: There was a long and very productive wide-ranging debate on the digital agenda for Europe, on the necessity for a single telecoms market. The EC Vice-President Kroes set out her objectives in her presentation today. It is fair to say that there was a large measure of agreement. The principle of a single telecoms market was supported by everybody, acknowledging the need for greater public and private investment. The need for strong consistent and predictable regularity environment is critical. It is not just the question of broadband and infrastructure being available to all. But there is also the necessity to emphasize the issue of digital skills and competences.	00:01:18

00:01:33	SOUNDBITE (English) by Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the EC in charge of the Digital Agenda: (it was)a fruitful discussion, not only about cyber security but also about funding digital services, taking steps forward in the high-speed broadband infrastructure and the e-signature. They are priorities. I got the certainty that everybody is aware that we are talking about a market that is borderless, as Internet and other services are borderless as well, meaning that we should take our responsibility and filling in what is needed for that type of activities. We are on the same page about giving telecom companies and entrepreneurs more opportunities ("Think European", "Compete globally"...) and ensuring that consumers can get more of what they need, affordable connectivity.	00:01:07
00:02:40	SOUNDBITE (English) by Pat Rabbitte on network information society and cyber crimes: there are real concerns about whether or not we are more exposed than we should be to cyber attacks. (There is) the need for trust and confidence if we are going to optimize the capacity, both as a society and an economy to do business across borders. That trust and confidence simply has to be there.	00:00:25
00:03:05	Departure	00:00:09
00:03:14	END	00:00:00