



Cable Europe

Press Release

Cable Europe calls on regulators to create investment-friendly regulatory climate

For Immediate Release – 20 March 2009

Berlin: Representatives of the EU's and Germany's telecommunications regulators yesterday met with leaders of the Cable industry to debate on how to improve European and national regulation to encourage continued investment in innovative superfast broadband networks and to improve safeguard competition in Europe's internal market.

Manuel Kohnstamm, who was elected to serve a second term as President of Cable Europe, the industry trade body, joined Bernd Langeheine, Director of Electronic Communications Policy at the European Commission, and Matthias Kurth, President of the German regulator BNetzA on a panel at the Cable Congress in Berlin, attended by more than 600 delegates this year.

The panellists agreed on the necessity of stable pan-European rules to foment competition and innovation in the telecommunications sector. Manuel Kohnstamm said: "Uniform application of rules is essential to enable industry investments. We cannot go back to a fragmentation of the markets and a clear decision making process on the application of telecom rules is needed at a supra national level."

Both the EU Commission and BnetzA agreed that inappropriate over-regulation would deter investment. Cable Europe argued the case for a minimal level of regulation applied throughout the region, not giving national regulators the flexibility to create new national-specific rules. Kohnstamm commented: "the sole aim of economic regulation should be to promote competition and avoid the abuse of market power. Competition works and forbearance is in need of renaissance. The main reason why incumbent operators need to upgrade to fibre is because Cable competes with speeds of 100mbps and above, not because regulators ask them to."

Cable Europe declared itself ready to collaborate with the European Commission in defining optimal levels of regulation on a range of policies including digital confidence. "The Cable industry is successfully rolling out new and compelling services, and our customers need to feel secure when using our products", Kohnstamm said, adding that European cable companies were committed to engaging with regulators and other stakeholders to find solutions to issues such as child protection, privacy protection, IP protection and service delivery quality.



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Note To Editors

More information about Cable Congress is available at www.cablecongress.com

About Cable Europe

Cable Europe is a trade association that groups all leading broadband cable TV operators and their national associations throughout Europe. The aim of Cable Europe is to promote and defend the industry's policies and business interests at European and international levels, and to foster cooperation among its members. The European cable TV industry services more than 94 million broadband, TV and telephony subscriptions throughout the EU 27.

www.cable-europe.eu

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