Council of the European Union

Brussels, 2 June 2017
(OR. en)

9623/17

TELECOM 139
POSTES 8

NOTE

From:	The Estonian delegation
To:	Council
Subject:	Work programme of the incoming Presidency
	- Information from the Estonian delegation

On 1 July 2017, Estonia will assume the Council's rotating Presidency after Malta. The work of the TTE Telecoms Council during the next six months will be of crucial importance for realizing the political priorities of the Estonian Presidency.

With our Presidency, a new trio composed of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria also starts its work. As a trio, the three Presidencies will prioritize timely completion of the different initiatives and actions of the Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy.

The Estonian Presidency plans to focus on the importance of a digitally united Europe and the free movement of data. Every Council formation will focus on digital questions, and in total nearly 50 legislative negotiations will elaborate various aspects of building a digital Europe, alongside around 50 events addressing these questions. The Telecommunications Council will focus on key horizontal enablers, in particular connectivity, the data economy, trust and security, and e-government.

Meetings under the Estonian Presidency at ministerial level will be held in Tallinn on 17 and 18 July 2017 (Informal Ministerial Meeting jointly with competitiveness ministers) and in Brussels on 4 December 2017 (TTE Telecoms Council). Additionally, there will be two ministerial meetings in Tallinn – the 2nd EaP Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy on 5 October 2017 and a Ministerial Conference on e-Government (with EEA/EFTA ministers) on 6 October 2017.

The Digital Single Market is inconceivable without the **free movement of data within the EU.** The Estonian Presidency will devote significant attention to the question of developing the European data economy, including through a joint informal meeting of ministers of telecommunications and competitiveness on 17th and 18th of July in Tallinn. There, we will discuss the free movement of data, both in localization as well as emerging issues such as data access and reuse for non-personal data. We also expect to hold a policy debate on data localization restrictions within the EU single market during the Telecoms Council in December.

Every sector of the Gigabit economy will require fast, always-on, always-available connectivity. Ensuring a successful roll-out of next generation communication networks is a fundamental challenge for Europe in the coming decade. The proposed **Electronic Communications Code** presents a major overhaul of telecommunications rules to prepare Europe for the era of 5G mobile broadband. The Code should promote investment, competition and the development of new services. Swift progress on the Code is the main legislative priority of the Estonian Presidency in the Telecommunications Council. We aim to agree on a general approach on the Code, and, if possible, begin trilogues with the European Parliament. We will also move forward with negotiations in the Council on the **BEREC Regulation**, aiming to reach a general approach. Given the importance of connectivity to the data economy, telecoms ministers will further discuss the conditions for successfully deploying 5G in the afternoon of 18 July during the Informal Ministerial meeting in Tallinn.

In the field of **Postal Services**, the ambition of the Estonian Presidency is to conclude negotiations on the **Regulation on Parcel Delivery.**

We should also expect public services to keep pace with digital transformation. The Estonian Presidency will be committed to ensuring the implementation of the e-Government Action Plan 2016 to 2020, and begin a discussion on long-term European plans for e-government, culminating in a **ministerial meeting and declaration on e-government in October**.

Keeping Europe safe and secure requires building trust and security in the digital domain. The proposed **Regulation on Privacy and Electronic Communications** is an important complement to European telecommunications and data protection rules. The Presidency will present a progress report that contains major advances.

Several Council formations will examine strategic questions around cyber security. The Telecoms Council will begin discussion on the **ENISA mandate** and measures on cyber security **standards, certification and labelling.**