

Joint Statement – Seoul, 30 September 2024

Preamble

Connect Europe and KTOA, based on their existing 2023 Memorandum of Understanding, are committed to making joint efforts for the continuous development of the telecommunications industry, improving its innovative capacity, enhancing user benefits, strengthening digital welfare, and expanding infrastructure investment. This Joint Statement outlines the shared vision to achieve these goals.

Our Shared Vision for the Industry

1. Enhancing Competitiveness

We work to expand both wired and wireless networks to enhance productivity and competitiveness across all industries. This expansion will develop networks into essential infrastructure, strengthening competitiveness and addressing a wide range of social issues.

2. Improving User Benefits

We work to achieve universal coverage, allowing everyone to communicate via digital networks. We provide users with secure and trustworthy communications services and ensure that they fully benefit from the services offered by the telecommunications industry. We aim to bring them more quality, more innovation, more security.

3. Strengthening Digital-enabled Prosperity for Users

Digital tools can improve the socio-economic welfare of our citizens. We support collaboration within the ICT ecosystem to offer more than simple connectivity. We aim to meet user needs, from devices to content, so that socio-economic growth can further be enabled by connectivity and the related services.

4. Innovation and Technological Advancement

We are committed to fostering innovative technological advancements in the wired and wireless network sectors. Technologies such as virtualization, software-defined networking, edge cloud and open RAN and 6G will enhance network efficiency, resilience, and capacity expansion. We strive to ensure the sustainability of the ICT ecosystem and provide users with new, dynamic experiences.

5. Establishing a Virtuous Cycle for Infrastructure Investment

We aim to create a virtuous cycle where investment and innovation in digital networks enables diverse service usage, leading to an improved user experience and ever better network quality. Commercial relationships between those investing in networks and those tech companies benefitting the most from data traffic should be healthy, fair and balanced. This is reflected in the Korean model for the ICT ecosystem, which is highly innovative and is source of global inspiration. The principle of fairness and of level-playing field are also recognized in the European Digital Rights and Principles [Declaration](#) as well as in recent reports by [Enrico Letta](#) and [Mario Draghi](#). It is important to move towards implementation.

6. Building Safe and Reliable Networks

We continue working to implement comprehensive measures to ensure that networks are safe and reliable from physical and virtual threats. This will allow everyone to use communication services with confidence and ensure national security. Our approach includes building a multifaceted, fully backed-up network infrastructure that encompasses local networks, undersea cables, and satellites.

7. Expanding Joint Research and Solidarity

We will support joint research and solidarity to advance the telecommunications industry in our respective geographies. This includes discussing the best policy approaches for future technologies, use cases addressing social issues with future technologies, undersea cables, and joint research and solidarity on global issues such as climate change and disaster prevention/response.

This declaration was signed on September 30, 2024, with all signatories committing to continuous cooperation to achieve these goals.