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NOTE

From: The Commission
To: Delegations

Subject: Commission Communication: "A public-private partnership on the Future Internet"
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Commission services on the above-mentioned topic.

Commission Communication: A public-private partnership on the Future Internet¹

A Future Internet for Future European economies and societies

Information note from the Commission services

The Internet of the Future could be key to lifting Europe's economy out of the economic and financial crisis. By integrating the internet into the basic functions and processes of existing infrastructures such as healthcare systems, energy grids or traffic management, they become more efficient and sustainable - they become "smart". Launching internet-enhanced infrastructures, multiple online services and applications will lead towards an "Internet of things" – an Internet where everything is connected and towards an "Internet of services" – an Internet in which users take a central role in creating and using its services. However, the current internet infrastructure is not yet capable of addressing all future challenges implied by new functionalities. Consequently, the emergence of multiple technological innovations calls for a more adapted and high-performance internet architecture.

Making Europe the driving force in the Future Internet research area, a place where advanced internet technologies and faster applications emerge first and lead to a promising economic and social future for European citizens have been addressed by:

- 1. Future Internet research in FP7 - Current research** efforts on the Future Internet are addressed in more than 90 EU-funded projects, involving more than 500 European organisations and EU funding of some 400 million Euros. Initiatives such as "FIRE" or "GEANT" support the deployment, testing and experimentation of the Future Internet.

The European Commission intends to continue investing 200 million Euros per year through the ICT work programme over the remainder of FP7. This budget sustains long term Research and Development (R&D) in the Future Internet area. In addition, it is necessary to overcome technological roadblocks and address user involvement, governance, standardisation and IPR.

¹ COM(2009) 479 final of 28 October 2009.

The "Future Internet Assembly" (FIA), has a federating effect on the European research community, and is an important tool to encourage research and innovation, to promote applications for the Future Internet , and to explore long-term future research topics.

2. **Future Internet Initiatives by Member State** - Working within the Future Internet Forum (FIF), the Commission will actively pursue the initiatives of the Member States to reduce fragmentation of efforts. It will step up enhancement of the EU's bilateral and multilateral international cooperation with other leading Future Internet initiatives. The main objective is to enhance global standards and interoperability of the Future Internet. The FIF was set up by Member States to build on common approaches and to coordinate national initiatives to address the Future Internet jointly.
3. **Industrial and innovation dimension** - The European Commission encourages industry-academia partnerships sharing research roadmaps. For instance five European Technology Platforms are currently active in coordinating among their constituency Future Internet-related technologies and systems.
4. **Building a public-private partnership on the Future Internet** - The European Commission proposed an EU-wide internet innovation strategy in its Communication of October 2009 involving the creation of a public-private partnership (PPP) between public sectors and major ICT players.

By employing novel internet technology, the efficiency of business processes and the activity of infrastructures and applications of important social value are considerably raised. The aim is to address service architectures and platforms, enhancing long term requirements of the internet, encouraging European industry to address "smart infrastructure" challenges and to take part in EU policies related to innovation, interoperability, sustainable growth, energy and environmental targets. Finally, the PPP encourages cross-sector industrial partnerships, involving users and public authorities at all levels: local, regional and national.

Initiating the PPP:

- The PPP on the Future Internet is supported by the European Commission with 300 million Euros for 2011-2013.
 - The Commission will develop the work programme, the specific evaluation and the modus operandi of the Future Internet PPP.
 - Under a call for proposals initiated by the Commission, industries must define by mid-2010 how to advance Europe's competitiveness in Future Internet technologies and systems and how to support the emergence of Future Internet-enhanced applications of public and social relevance.
 - The Commission will review the possibility of setting up a governance structure similar to that used by the Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) for the Future Internet PPP. Finally, through the Future Internet Forum, the Commission calls on the Member States to support the Future Internet PPP and help refine policy requirements in order to develop open, standardised, cross-sector service platforms.
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