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**I/ERG Statement
on the progress of the European legislative framework for electronic communications**

The Plenary of the I/ERG agreed on a common statement on recent developments of the legislative debate on the review of the European regulatory framework for electronic communications.

The I/ERG looks forward to a timely agreement on a new regulatory framework for electronic communications which is capable to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving environment and to deliver sustainable benefits for end users.

In this respect, the I/ERG welcomes the progress made to date by the European Parliament and the Council while noting that further development, particularly on the following institutional aspects, is needed.

The I/ERG believes that, based on experience to date, NRAs' independence is of fundamental importance for the proper and effective functioning of the new regulatory framework.

Accordingly, the I/ERG warmly welcomes the Report of the European Parliament which endorsed the Commission's proposed amendments to the Framework Directive aimed at strengthening NRA independence with explicit provisions to this effect.

Indeed, formal and substantial reinforcement of NRA independence at national level is the corner-stone for the effective implementation of the EU regulatory framework in Member States, as well as for progressive improvement of the European system of regulatory cooperation.

The I/ERG also welcomes the debate on future institutional arrangements which emphasises the necessity to place NRAs at the heart of efforts to achieve greater consistency in the application of the framework.

The proposal to establish a model of cooperation between NRAs by means of a lean structure, focused duties on forward-looking regulatory issues and with governance and daily operations in the control of NRAs, would take the utmost benefit from NRAs' common expertise and build upon the effective style of cooperation already in place within the I/ERG.



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Finally, the I/ERG believes that any review of the regulatory process should reflect the developing cooperative approach, both amongst NRAs and between NRAs and the Commission.

Within such an approach to regulatory coordination and the pursuit of greater regulatory consistency, the I/ERG restates the principle that NRAs have the relevant expertise to define and implement remedies tailored to their national markets and that final regulatory decisions should continue to be made at national level.