



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 7 March 2013

Antitrust: Commission closes preliminary investigation into E5

In March 2012 the Commission confirmed that it had requested information from five large telecom operators (the "E5": Deutsche Telekom, France Télécom, Telefónica, Vodafone and Telecom Italia) and from the mobile sector association GSMA about the way standards for future mobile communications services are being developed.

The Commission's policy is to ensure that standardisation processes led by major telecom operators are not being used strategically to foreclose other companies.

The Commission notes that the standardisation work formerly conducted by the E5 has been transferred to the GSMA and other industry associations. The Commission welcomes this transfer, which allows more stakeholder participation. It is a positive step that reduces the risk of standard setting work affecting competition negatively. Therefore, the Commission is closing its preliminary investigation.

The Commission will remain watchful of how standardisation processes evolve in this sector.

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