

## **Official submission from the European Commission – Consultation Paper on Promoting Local Telecom Equipment Manufacturing**

13 October 2017

The European Commission presents its compliments to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and has the honour to thank the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for being given the opportunity to comment on the Consultation Paper on Promoting Local Telecom Equipment Manufacturing.

The European Commission welcomes that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is carefully studying the issue of telecom manufacturing equipment and the relation to Standard Essential Patents. The interplay between patents and standards is important for innovation and growth. Standards guarantee the widespread dissemination of interoperable and safe technologies among companies and consumers. Patents provide incentives for R&D and allow innovative companies to receive an adequate return on investments.

In the view of the European Commission, these key principles reflect two main objectives: on the one hand, incentivising the development and inclusion of high-end technologies in standards, by preserving fair and adequate return for the contributors, and on the other, ensuring smooth and wide dissemination of standardised technologies based on fair access conditions. Ultimately, a successful policy on SEPs licensing should balance these two principles and any policy on the matter should not be tilted to either of these two principles. Therefore the European Commission urges the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to weigh up very careful these principles in coming up with any policy proposals.

The European Commission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India the assurances of its highest consideration.