

The International Telecommunications Users Group (INTUG) congratulates Telecom eV as it celebrates 35 years of distinguished service to users of communications services. We are proud to count Telecom eV as part of our global community which represents users' interests in telecommunications debates worldwide. When Telecom eV was formed in 1978, INTUG had only been in existence for four short years. The prospect of competition in the provision of voice and data communications services was in its infancy, following the US Carterfone decision in 1974. Since then both our organisations have lived through exciting times as competition and choice came to Europe, and increasingly to other parts of the world. The Communications Green Paper leading to the liberalisation decision of 1992, resulting in opening up of European markets from 1998 revolutionised the use of communications services and created the platform on which today's Internet revolution has flourished. Together we have achieved a transformation of the environment for communications. This has changed the lives of individuals, with social media underpinning continually connected lives. It has enabled the business community to expand its horizons across international borders in ways that would have been unimaginable back in 1978. But there is much still to be done. The next generation of fibre based fixed broadband networks and high speed 4G/LTE mobile communications, plus an explosion of WiFi access points, are essential to support cloud computing, machine-to-machine communications, connected cars and connected TVs and a myriad of yet unknown innovations. Europe is at a cross roads and faces a choice between a fast lane towards the future based on effective competition and efficient investment, or a slow-lane relying on re-established dominance by incumbents and hesitant investment in new technologies. User groups like Telecom eV and INTUG have a vital role to play in ensuring that Europe in particular, and the world in general, chooses the fast lane forward to improve social welfare, to encourage cross border trade and to rebuild economic progress.

Danielle Jacobs, Chairman of INTUG

### **About INTUG**

INTUG is a global association of business users of communications. With members and contacts in all five continents, we use this reach to actively promote professional customers interests at the international level and to ensure that the voice of the business user is clearly heard. Our long-term focus is to bring down all barriers companies and public institutions face when developing their ICT strategies. For more info see our web site: [www.intug.org](http://www.intug.org)

#### **Contacts:**

Danielle Jacobs, Chairman of the Board

T +32 15 51 88 51 M +32 495 10 88 51

[danielle.jacobs@intug.org](mailto:danielle.jacobs@intug.org)

Nick White, Executive Vice President

T +44 20 8647 4858 M +44 77 1009 7638

[nick.white@intug.org](mailto:nick.white@intug.org)