

For Immediate Release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) signs Memorandum of Understanding

New Delhi, 14th June, 2018: Dr. Ram Sewak Sharma, Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Mr. Johannes Gungl, BEREC Chair signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" (MoU) on 14th June, 2018. Under the framework of this MoU, both BEREC and TRAI advocate for effective electronic communications regulation. The goal of the MoU is to encourage a cooperative relationship between the Parties that supports the Parties' respective efforts to address current and future regulatory challenges as well as to develop collegial working relationships between experts representing both Parties.

Both BEREC and TRAI place strong emphasis on collaborative work on net neutrality. Therefore today, they also adopted a "Joint Statement for an Open Internet". In this statement the two expose their common understanding of the building blocks of net neutrality rules and the core aspects of the regulators' mission in preserving these rules. It also intends to show the willingness of both sides to develop regular exchanges regarding the implementation of these rules.

"Net neutrality is a vital principle and an open internet crucial for people around the globe. We are very happy to have TRAI as a partner to ensure a univocal protection of net neutrality principles for internet access services", says Mr Gungl.

"We consider that the internet will continue to be an enabler of growth and innovation for countries like India who can use technology to leapfrog to the next stage of development. Therefore, it is important that the internet is kept as an open and non-discriminatory platform. Our MoU with BEREC gives us an opportunity to not only work closely together in areas like net neutrality, but also to collaborate in other areas where the EU has adopted a very effective regulatory framework like consumer protection, broadband development and promotion of Next Generation Access roll-out ", says Dr R.S. Sharma.



ABOUT BEREC

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) was established by Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009, as part of the Telecom Reform package. It replaced the European Regulators Group for electronic communications networks and services which was established as an advisory group to the Commission in 2002.

BEREC contributes to the development and better functioning of the internal market for electronic communications networks and services. It does so, by aiming to ensure a consistent application of the EU regulatory framework and by aiming to promote an effective internal market in telecoms sector, in order to bring even greater benefits to consumers and businesses alike.

ABOUT TRAI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established in the year 1997 by an Act of Parliament viz. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, to regulate the telecommunication services and to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of telecom services. The Authority vide an order dated 9th January 2004, was entrusted the additional functions in respect of Broadcasting and Cable Service for making recommendations regarding the (i) terms and conditions on which the "Addressable systems" shall be provided to customers and (ii) parameters regulating maximum time for advertisement in pay channel as well as other channels.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) mission is to ensure that the interests of consumers are protected and at the same time to nurture conditions for growth of telecommunications, broadcasting and cable services in a manner and at a pace which will enable India to play a leading role in emerging global information society.

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