

Press release

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Luc Chatel welcomes the European Parliament's vote on draft regulation to develop Information and Communication Technologies in order to boost growth

France's Minister of State to the Minister for the Economy, Industry and Employment, with responsibility for Industry and Consumer Affairs and Government spokesman, Luc Chatel, welcomed the European Parliament's vote on the "Telecom package" in his capacity as chairman of the Council of European Ministers for Electronic Communication. Mr Chatel believes this draft regulation will improve regulation of the sector and thus help develop Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Europe and promote growth. It will also provide a new radio-frequency spectrum management policy and strengthen consumer protection.

On this occasion, Mr Chatel has written to each of his European counterparts, indicating his **desire to prepare an ambitious political agreement between Member States concerning this draft regulation** for the next meeting of the Council of European Ministers for Electronic Communication on 27 November. Such an agreement would open the way to a second reading of the texts by the European Parliament in the first quarter of 2009, prior to their final adoption under the Czech Presidency.

In addition, Mr Chatel is pleased with the Commission's draft regulation to place a limit on international roaming charges on mobile networks. The Minister emphasised the importance of this issue for European travellers at a time when mobile phones, and SMSs in particular, constitute a growing share of household expenses. He hopes that these proposals will be given all the attention that they deserve on 27 November.