



European Satellite Operators Association ('ESOA') elects new Chairman

Brussels, 5 June 2008

Chief Executive Officers of Europe's satellite operators met last week in Brussels for the Annual General Meeting of ESOA, the European Satellite Operators Association. The Board elected Giuliano Berretta, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Eutelsat Communications, as Chairman of the Board. He will succeed Christodoulos Protopapas, CEO of Hellas Sat. Romain Bausch, CEO of SES, was elected Vice Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Berretta said: "I am honoured to have been elected Chairman of ESOA which Eutelsat helped to found in 2002 to represent the interests of our industry. Satellites face tough issues in the world today. Besides pushing the benefits they provide of enabling communication between people anywhere, anytime, we find ourselves having to fight hard to protect even the basic framework in which satellites operate! By this, I mean obtaining and preserving ongoing and unfettered access to spectrum; respecting the international (ITU) framework on which satellite operators depend, and maintaining long-term license procedures that enable operators to provide services over 15-20 years: these are all issues that are being called into question by the present review of the EU Telecoms Package and on which satellite operators through ESOA, will continue to take an aggressive stance to defend their interests.

Eutelsat and the other ESOA members are committed to providing the crucial communications services they have been delivering to citizens and other users over the last decades, and believe that there is no reason why any EU citizen need be without connectivity today. Continuing on from our position as a front-runner in digital television, satellites are now spearheading the market for HDTV and are set to be the largest platform for HDTV viewing in Europe. They are also an essential component for achieving the objectives for universal broadband access which are being set in a growing number of countries across Europe. And at critical times, when other networks are unavailable, satellites are a vital solution for emergency communications. Through the solar energy that powers satellites and their low radiation emission, these applications are delivered to citizens and other users in a way that contributes to policies of sustainable development.

Mr. Berretta will lead ESOA through the next year in its work, which besides the review of the EU Regulatory Framework, extends to opening global markets to satellite services, promoting broadband connectivity via satellite especially for developing regions such as Africa, and more recently, advocating the role satellites play in energy efficiency, whether by supporting management of remote energy plants (wind turbines, hydro-electric plants, etc) or in traffic management and reducing congestion. ESOA members believe their services have increasing relevance to political agendas and are committed to convincing policy-makers of the same.

The activities and other details about the Association can be found at ESOA's new website www.esoa.net. Further Members of ESOA are: Astrium Services, Eurasiasat, Hellas Sat, Hispasat, Inmarsat, SES, SES Sirius, Telenor and Telespazio. Arianespace, Astrium Satellites, Avanti, International Space Brokers, Mansat, Marsh, Thales Alenia Space & Willis are Supporting Members of ESOA.

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