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President Jose Manuel Barroso  
President of the European Commission

### EU Economic Recovery Plan<sup>1</sup>

Dear President Barroso,

I write to you as Chairman of the European Satellite Operators' Association, which represents all European satellite operating companies. As members of a strategic sector, which generates billions of euros in terms of direct & indirect downstream revenues for EU economies, satellite operators welcome the Commission's Package to boost EU economies and improve conditions for EU citizens. On behalf of the members of ESOA I wish to express our views on one specific aspect of the Commission's Recovery Plan: namely the proposed "€5bn to improve energy links across the EU and improve broadband access". I also refer to the outcome of the Telecoms Council of 27<sup>th</sup> November which recognised (i) the unlikelihood of the market to provide broadband internet access "within a reasonable period of time to the most isolated regions of the EU" and (ii) "the impact of broadband connectivity on competitiveness and economic growth [is] gradually turning this infrastructure into an essential commodity [and is] an argument for strengthening Community and national strategies to provide access".

Our sector has been in dialogue with all European Commission departments in charge of space, telecommunications & media for many years concerning the use of satellite technology to bring connectivity to EU citizens. Existing satellites in orbit can support this objective, either as a stand-alone technology or by contributing to the deployment and performance of other land-based communications technologies, to reach those citizens who may otherwise remain 'forgotten & unconnected' by virtue of their remote, rural locations. Satellites can provide immediate reach to those on islands, mountains, in valleys or in other remote locations. Although a move to provide innovative mobile services via satellite has been seen in Europe, general broadband coverage today still remains an outstanding EU objective. It is our view that this can be rapidly overcome and we would encourage you to acknowledge that satellite is part of the solution. Especially at the present time of global financial crisis, satellite operators do consider that it is in the public interest to draw on a technology solution that achieves the European objective (i) in the most cost-effective & time efficient way (satellites are already there able to serve immediately) and (ii) in an ecologically friendly manner (satellites use solar energy for their entire lifetime of over 15 years). As such the members of ESOA remain willing to contribute to the EU's policies as best they can.

I look forward to hearing from you and remain at your disposition for any clarification you may require.

Sincerely yours,  
Giuliano Berretta



<sup>1</sup> COM 2008(800) of 26 November 2008