

**Brussels, 9th September 2015** - The EMEA Satellite Operators Association (ESOA) pledges its support to helping President Juncker address key challenges facing the Union.

As Europe deals with issues from the migration crisis to economic stability and growth, ESOA Members, including the world's leading operators, affirmed their support to help enable robust and effective communications for Europe as governments strive to ensure cross-border security control, contribute to humanitarian efforts in Syria and elsewhere and ensure continued economic growth at home.

Satellite operators are very often first on call when it comes to dealing with disasters, as their space-based infrastructure is naturally resilient to events happening on the ground. This, coupled with their portability and ability to bring immediate communications no matter where people are, means that the humanitarian community relies on them when responding to a disaster. This year alone, ESOA members have enabled immediate communications and connectivity on the ground in Vanuatu, Nepal, Myanmar, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi and Syria. Right now, European satellite operators are supporting the efforts and coordination of governments and NGOs across UN refugee camps in Jordan as the influx of migrants continues.

Reliable communications are a key component for monitoring EU borders and dealing with human emergencies in the Mediterranean. Entities like EUNAVFOR for instance rely on mobile satellite communications for safe operations and help EU authorities better manage the flow of refugees.

“Satellite communications can literally save lives: a few months ago, a 500 person boat filled with Syrian refugees, mainly women and children was about to capsize as it was overloaded. Luckily one man on board was a doctor and had a satellite phone, which he used to summon help. He didn't have credit so he called the ESOA Member's helpline that customers usually use to recharge their phones with credit when in remote areas. He explained the urgency of the situation and within seconds, the satellite operator was able to provide the precise location of the ship to Interpol and the Italian coast guard and within an hour every person on that ship was saved.” - Aarti Holla, ESOA Secretary General.

ESOA Members stand ready to support EU institutions and Member States' administrations in their efforts to find a long lasting solution to refugee crisis in Europe.

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*ESOA is a non-profit organisation established with the objective of serving and promoting the common interests of satellite operators from Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the CIS. The Association today represents the interests of 21 satellite operators who deliver information communication services across the globe. Together ESOA Members provide invaluable communications services to the whole world including emergency communications, live broadcasting, maritime and aero communications, secure services for governments, 24-7 monitoring of industrial processes such as energy plants and a whole range of other communications capabilities that society has come to rely on.*

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