Keynote Address by Ambassador Kozlowski

Honourable Minister of State for Telecom, IT and HRD, Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre,

Dear colleagues from the industry and academia,

Ladies and gentlemen,

- It is a pleasure for me to deliver the keynote address in the third edition of the 5G Congress.

- Let me start by congratulating the organisers for holding this timely event and enabling quality exchanges among so many eminent speakers, related to the 5G technology. 5G is expected to transform the nature of technological advancement. With participation of stakeholders from across sectors, such events enable a platform for sharing of knowledge and best practices. The event outcomes could further facilitate the government in making comprehensive policy-decisions.

- India is one of the most important partners of the EU when it comes to trade and investment. In recent years we have seen our partnership expand into fields, such as ICT, environment, and sustainable urbanization, just to mention a few.

- The EU is India's largest trading partner in goods and services combined. Our bilateral trade in goods and services has gone up and is now around 140 billion USD. Over 6,000 EU companies are present in India, providing directly 1.7 million jobs and indirectly 5 million jobs and bringing modern technologies. Out of this, the ICT companies of EU origin have together created well over 100.000 quality jobs.

- The cooperation between EU and India on ICT has progressed very well over the years. Our engagements on international topics such as net neutrality, internet governance, data protection and privacy, are few examples that showcases our common interests.

- To reaffirm its confidence on further strengthening the cooperation, the EU in last November adopted the new strategy for India. Among others, cooperation on

Internet of Things, Intelligent Transport Systems, Future Networks, Telecom Security and 5G, including alignment with international standards, form essential elements of the strategy.

Standardisation

- On ICT standardisation activities, I am happy to share that the EU has been supporting a project to promote closer alignment between India and EU on production and use of ICT standards.

- Since its inception in 2015, the collaboration between the Indian and European telecom standards bodies (TSDSI and ETSI) on emerging global ICT standards for machine-to-machine communications, future networks and 5G have facilitated in recognition and adoption of India specific requirements at international standards fora.

- The project has also promoted capacity building by inviting young talented students to develop innovative ideas, using open standards, through tutorials and hackathons. I am pleased to share that till date, the project has organised 9 tutorials and 3 hackathons across the country.

- I can assure you that the efforts shall continue towards aligning our positions on standards at the global level and supporting the capacity building on open standards through tutorials and hackathons at the national level.

Data Protection

- On data protection, I congratulate the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on the progress made on the data protection legislation.

- With such a law in place, India would be joining the growing trend of global convergence towards a modern data protection law and take a leadership role in the region and globally at a time when the need to address challenges to data privacy and security requires a common approach.

- The adoption of a strong data protection law could also pave the way for EU-India adequacy discussions, and in any event further facilitate data flows.

5G

- Let me now give you an overview on activities in the EU on adoption of 5G which might be beneficial in some of your discussions later today and tomorrow.

- The European Union has been highly committed to the success of 5G in Europe; we have developed a comprehensive policy package since 2012 to support the emergence of a strong European 5G supply side and its rapid deployment.

- We started planning 5G research activities under Horizon 2020 to encourage a Europe-wide industrial momentum, and launched the 5G Public Private Partnership in 2013, which has massively supported industrial leadership - notably through contributions to standardisation and technology validation.

- An important milestone for the EU was the launch of 5G Action Plan in 2016. The 5G Action Plan called for European stakeholders and Member States to join forces to make 5G a success in Europe by launching 5G services in at least one city per Member State by 2020, and to enable a comprehensive deployment by 2025.

- The European Union launched the European 5G Observatory in June last year to monitor the progress of 5G readiness and preparatory actions in Europe, and also globally. The observatory is accessible to everyone online.

- When it comes to 5G trials, I'm happy to state that Europe seems to be in the lead. We currently have around 150 trials in over 20 member States, and tens of European cities are implementing extensive 5G trials.

Security

- With emerging technologies, the challenges to security are also increasing. We cannot overlook these challenges and there is a need for a collaborative effort to address them.

- The EU is open to collaborate with its partners. It is evident from our various initiatives taken here which includes organising visits and workshops, inviting experts from the EU, just to name a few.

- In March this year, the European Union announced recommendations on a set of concrete actions to assess cybersecurity risks of 5G networks and to strengthen preventive measures. Recently, 24 member states submitted their national cybersecurity risk assessments. By the end of this year, we intend to finalise the mitigating measures to address these risks.

- In June this year, the Cybersecurity Act came into force in the EU. The act establishes an EU framework for cybersecurity certification to ensure a common cybersecurity certification approach in the European internal market and ultimately improve cybersecurity in a broad range of digital products (e.g. Internet of Things) and services. The Act also complements the EU Directive on Security of Network & Information Systems.

- We are happy to further engage with India to share our knowledge and best practices on these topics.

Conclusion

- Let me conclude by reaffirming that the European Union is committed to strengthening cooperation with our strategic partner country India in the field of ICT.

- The next EU-India Joint Working Group on ICT later in this year is one such example where in detailed discussions are envisaged on 5G, data, security, among others.

- Our Partnership brings on board relevant stakeholders to facilitate dialogue and provide for best practices, business solutions, joint research & innovation, and adapted financing models. I am hopeful that this partnership will ensure quality services to our citizens.

- I wish all the delegates and participants a fruitful congress.

Thank you for your attention!