

Good Morning

Ladies and Gentlemen

I should like to begin by thanking you all for finding the time to attend this breakfast meeting.

Before going any further, let me say a few words about myself. I am Maria Graça de Carvalho and I am a Portuguese MEP. My main activity, on the ITRE Committee involves the negotiation of the final stages of the Horizon 2020 report and more particularly, I am the rapporteur for the Specific Programme Implementing Horizon 2020. I am also the permanent rapporteur for space on the Budget Committee.

With regard to the theme of today's meeting, it strikes me that there are two main aspects to the way in which the GSM industry can contribute to energy efficiency and progress on clean and efficient energy.

In the first place, there are the efforts that the industry itself makes to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions within the industry itself. This also involves ensuring that the energy that it uses in powering its networks - including in different rural areas across the world - is as green as possible. The GSM industry has very high standards and these high standards could be used to set an example in other industrial and business sectors.

In the second place, there is the way in which mobile technology in general can contribute to more efficient energy use and low carbon emissions through the numerous applications that it has already developed and will undoubtedly continue to develop in the future. I am thinking, in particular, of such sectors as buildings, transport, logistics, smart cities and smart grids and so on.

As I see it, we are not exploiting recent technological developments and the existing state of knowledge enough. We already have the means to accurately monitor physical properties such as temperature and humidity and so on and to regulate energy consumption at a distance in relation to these factors as they change and fluctuate.

However, we still need to find a way of actually making this knowledge and technology widely available to the general public. The gains will be considerable. Not only will we be able to reduce energy consumption significantly, but there is a whole market out there that will afford a world of opportunity for dynamic and enterprising hi-tech companies. If we effectively tap into this market, this is something that will contribute enormously to economic growth and reducing unemployment.

Energy efficiency and green power: How the mobile industry is setting the standard for industry progress on clean and efficient energy

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Thank you very much. It only remains for me to say that I look forward to what I am sure will be a rewarding and stimulating discussion.