TABC Reaches Transatlantic Consensus on the Open Internet

November 10, 2014, Brussels & Washington, DC – The Trans-Atlantic Business Council (TABC) today announced the publication of its position on the Open Internet. This is the first time a cross-sectorial group of companies headquartered in the EU and the U.S. have successfully developed and agreed upon a common vision on this topic. The TABC position provides balanced guiding policy principles with the objective of ensuring that the internet remains open while maintaining a competitive and investment-leading, environment for businesses and consumers.

TABC believes that new and innovative ICT and internet-related services are essential to accelerate economic growth, underpin competitiveness globally, increase societal benefits, and stimulate job creation. The Open Internet and related broadband services are the cornerstones that facilitate these opportunities. Any new policies under consideration should guard against practices that harm competition or consumers, but must otherwise allow service providers flexibility for differentiated and innovative solutions and business models.

With this initiative, the TABC aims to contribute to the active debate on the subject in both Europe and the United States. While EU legislators consider the proposal for the Connected Continent Regulation, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission has released a new Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on protecting and promoting the Open Internet.

Tim Bennett, Director-General of TABC, said "Maintaining an open internet and promoting investment and innovation across the value chain is vital for businesses and consumers alike. We are proud to have developed a common understanding on the issue among our member companies, who represent businesses from both sides of the Atlantic and a variety of industry sectors, and are delighted to be able to offer a valuable contribution to the current debate on this very important subject."

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The Trans-Atlantic Business Council (TABC) is a cross-sectorial business association representing 70+ global companies headquartered in the U.S. and EU. TABC works with companies across multiple sectors and policy levels, including the strategic level with the Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue (TABD), a program which brings together C-suite executives and high level government officials. TABC stand out as the only transatlantic business organization uniquely placed to provide one voice for EU and U.S. companies in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP).