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Strengthening the Supply-Side Innovation in EU Telecommunications

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Brussels, 12 June 2025 - An [ECIPE Policy Brief](#) urges policymakers to act decisively to support Europe's telecom technology sector, a critical pillar of the continent's future competitiveness in the digital economy.

While Europe no longer produces mobile phones for mass markets, it remains a global leader in the design and development of telecom innovation. Europe's success has been built on years of sustained investment in research and development, underpinned by a robust institutional framework. Standardisation organisations, technical standards, and strong intellectual property protection have enabled European firms to specialise, innovate, and compete globally.

As telecommunication technologies such as 5G and 6G form the backbone of artificial intelligence and quantum computing, maintaining leadership in telecom technology is essential for Europe's economic prosperity and security.

“Strengthening the supply-side innovation in EU telecommunications offers the best opportunity for the EU economy to jump on the bandwagon of the next digital technology revolution,” said Dyuti Pandya, one of the report's authors. “The EU should grab this opportunity with both hands.”

The study argues that Europe's best chance to remain at the global technology frontier rests on a strategy which will enable the EU to recommit to open, industry and market-driven standards; strengthen the protection of intellectual property such as Standard Essential Patents; invest in R&D and telecommunication infrastructure; and lower the burden of digital regulation.

As the European Commission prepares to publish its Digital Networks Act before the end of 2025, it is essential that the innovation dimension of the EU telecommunications sector

is not overlooked. Europe's ability to compete depends on its strength in telecom innovation, a sector that deserves the conditions it needs to flourish.

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