

Joint Declaration of Slovenia and the United States on 5G Security

Taking into account that secure fifth generation wireless communications networks (5G) will be vital to both future prosperity and national security, Slovenia and the United States declare their desire to strengthen our cooperation on 5G. 5G will enable a vast array of new applications, including the provision of services critical to the public, which will benefit our citizens and our economies. Increased amounts of data on 5G networks will further interconnect the economies of the world, including Slovenia and the United States, and facilitate cross-border services and commerce. Protecting communications networks from disruption or manipulation, and ensuring the privacy and individual liberties of the citizens of Slovenia and the United States are vital to ensuring that our people are able to take advantage of the tremendous economic opportunities 5G will enable.

Therefore, Slovenia and the United States welcome efforts such as the Council of the European Union “Conclusions on the Significance of 5G to the European Economy and the Need to Mitigate Security Risks Linked to 5G”, Communication from the European Commission on “Secure 5G Deployment in the EU – Implementing the EU Toolbox,” and the Chair’s statement from the Prague 5G Security Conference — the “Prague Proposals” — as important steps toward developing a common approach to 5G network security. The Prague Proposals emphasize the need to develop, deploy, and commercialize 5G networks based on the foundation of free and fair competition, transparency, and the rule of law. Slovenia and the United States also recall the London Declaration, in which the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Allies, within their respective authority, committed to ensuring the security of their communications, including 5G.

Slovenia and the United States emphasize the importance of encouraging the participation of reliable and trustworthy network hardware and software suppliers in 5G markets, taking into account risk profile assessments, and promoting frameworks that effectively protect 5G networks from unauthorized access and interference. Slovenia and the United States further recognize that 5G suppliers should provide products and services that enable innovation and promote efficiency. Slovenia and the United States note that all countries share a responsibility to undertake a careful and balanced approach to network security and the evaluation of 5G components and software providers.

To promote a vibrant and robust 5G ecosystem, Slovenia and the United States believe that a rigorous evaluation of suppliers and supply chains should take into account the rule of law; the security environment; ethical supplier practices; and a supplier's compliance with security standards and best practices. Specifically, evaluations should include especially the following elements:

- Whether the network hardware and software suppliers are subject, without independent judicial review, to control by a foreign government;
- Whether the network hardware and software suppliers have transparent ownership, partnerships, and corporate governance structures and are subject to a legal regime that enforces transparent corporate practices;
- Whether the network hardware and software suppliers are committed to innovation and respect for intellectual property rights; and
- Whether the network hardware and software suppliers have a record of ethical corporate behavior.

Slovenia and the United States also believe that the same kind of rigorous evaluation should be applied to foreign direct investments in critical communication infrastructure, be it physical or virtual, through a dedicated screening mechanism. Further, Slovenia and the United States recognize the need to raise awareness of the importance of 5G security and intend to promote it within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union.

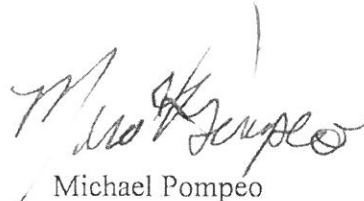
Signed in duplicate in Ljubljana on 13 August 2020 in the Slovenian and English languages, both texts being equally valid.

For Slovenia



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For the United States



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