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PRESS RELEASE

Press release 08/2015

Brussels, 06/05/2015

To be released immediately

THE DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET, SUPPORT OF THE MODERNISATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

CEEP welcomes the presentation of the Digital Single Market Strategy by the European Commission. It is a key step towards a fair regulatory environment, crucial to boost the European digital economy and a more inclusive society, to ensure a level-playing field for all, to encourage future investments in digital infrastructures and to sustain investment in original digital content which is one of the main drivers of the digital economy and society. The Strategy rightfully focuses on both networks and content, going hand-in-hand as a virtuous circle.

Valeria Ronzitti, CEEP General Secretary, specifically emphasised the importance of an inclusive e-society in the Strategy, including digital skills and expertise as well as the access to e-services. *“The Digital Single Market Strategy stresses the growing importance of e-services, such as e-government, e-energy, e-transport and e-health. Since the beginning of the economic crisis, public services providers have been facing new and complex challenges, such as budget cuts and the search for improved efficiency. For our members, e-services clearly represent an important instrument to become even more efficient and effective.*

However, in order to reach the full potential of those services, there is a need for citizens and businesses to have access to efficient and reliable networks. In that context, additional investments are needed in digital infrastructures, in particular broadband rollout, in urban as well as in rural areas.”

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CEEP, European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services, is one of the three general cross-sectoral European Social Partners. It gathers public and private providers of services of general interest from across Europe. CEEP members contribute to more than 26% of EU GDP and employ 30% of the EU workforce.