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KCC Chairman met with British, U.S and French regulators of broadcast and telecommunications to strengthen the global partnership

- Agreed on signing a MoU with CSA –

- Reaffirmed the global leadership in ICT sector at MWC 2015 and made a successful entry into Europe-

Chairman of Korea Communications Commission Choi Sungjoon held meetings with his counterparts from Office of Communications (Ofcom), Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Conseil Superieur de L’Audioviduel (CSA) to discuss the current issues in the broadcasting and telecommunications field. By having a continuous dialogue on the policy directions, they agreed upon advancing cooperative ties on key global issues so as to better respond to the evolving broadcasting and telecommunications service sector.

In particular Mr. Choi and his French counterpart agreed on signing a MoU to enhance the bilateral cooperation in a substantive way. By pledging to have a working level consultation in the near future, the two organizations will open lines of communication for policy cooperation.

In the UK his first stop in Europe, Chairman Choi sat down with Ofcom Chairman Particia Hudgson to talk about issues ranging from the role of regulators, integrated viewership data, retransmission of terrestrial broadcasters and UHD TV to spectrum relocation. Ms. Hodgson hopes to enhance information exchanges with KCC by identifying that the Ofcom has been engaged in research and development on calculating rating figures of both fixed and mobile in an integrated way. The two organizations are expected to see enhance cooperation in the relevant field.

At the 2015 Mobile World Congress, Mr. Choi met with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to share ideas and views on the policy direction of both commissions: “Net Neutrality Principles”, “Report on Big data and Privacy”. Recognizing Korea’s achievements in high broadband penetration rate and well-established telecommunications infrastructure, Chairman Wheeler said that the ICT development model taken by Korea is seen as a textbook example. The two chairmen agreed on keeping the lines of communication open for policy cooperation and information exchanges.

During his trip to Europe, Mr. Choi visited France to sit down with CSA Chirman Olivier Schrameck to discuss several issues: the role of regulators in the era of broadcasting and telecommunications, the recent French government’s decision on auctioning 700MHz band, integrated viewer ratings. Mr. Schrameck suggested having a working level communication line open and building a new cooperative partnership between CSA and KCC. With Mr. Choi’s acceptance of the suggestion at the meeting, the two chairmen agreed on signing a MoU in the near future. Chairman Schrameck took an interest in KCC’s organizational structure, and affairs related to management, budget allocation, and policy decision making process.

At the MWC2015, Chairman Choi met with top officials from leading overseas companies, Dr. Paul Jacobs Executive Chairman, Qualcomm Inc. and David Wang, Vice President Hua Wei to talk about the technology trend and the future direction of the broadcasting and telecommunications industry.

He also took a tour of various exhibit spaces like the Korean Pavilion (by KOTRA), KT, Nokia, SKT, Qualcomm, Samsung electronics, LG electronics, Ericsson and Hua Wei to have hands-on experience with the industry’s latest technologies and listen to the voices from the CEOs of Korean corporations in the broadcasting and telecommunications field on their difficulties and opinions on the relevant policies. With Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones Commissioner Luis Fernando Borjon Figueroa, Mr. Choi shared views and opinions on pending issues like fair trade in the broadcasting and telecommunications market, IFT’s regulatory measures on monopoly and oligopoly, spectrum policies, Internet of Things, and privacy policies.

At the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism (MINETUR), Chairman Choi talked about topics including Big data industry, privacy issue, UHD TV and policies on spectrum allocation and asked for the Spanish government’s support for Korean broadcasters when they make efforts in advancing to the Latin American market. Having seen as a bride-head for Latin American market, Spain emerges as an important nation not only in terms of its own market size for Korean broadcasting products but also its impact on the Latin America which has potential viewership of 500million people. This visit is expected to serve as an opportunity for the Korean broadcasters to make inroads into the market.

In the UK Mr. Choi visited SKY UK (BSky B), a British telecommunications company and Freesat, a free-to-air digital satellite company to support the successful launch of Arirang TV and other Korean broadcasters. Arirang TV and Radio y Television Espanola (RTVE) held a signing ceremony for a MoU on content exchange and co-production which was joined by Chairman Choi showing his support for Korean broadcasters’ advancement to European market. By introducing Korean public broadcaster, he said that it is desirable for two nation’s broadcasters to engage in co-production, human resource exchanges and technical cooperation.

SKY UK is one of the largest satellite TV broadcasters equipped with media education system, latest production studio, newsroom, editorial room and transmission facilities, airing as many as 600 channels. Taking a tour of those facilities at SKY UK, Mr. Choi showed his interest in technical cooperation in UHD TV and media education system, suggesting advancing the cooperative partnership to the next level.