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## German chancellor Angela Merkel at the Digitising Europe Summit: "5G roll-out is important, but must also be physically feasible"

*Berlin (ots) -*

German chancellor Angela Merkel has promoted a rapid but realistic expansion of fast Internet infrastructure. At the Digitising Europe Summit organised by the Vodafone Institute, she said: "In the 5G discussion, everyone is saying that this is a good time to put all kinds of things into it, especially in parliament. But everything must also be physically feasible." Merkel continued: "When it comes to telecommunications, you always have to think first about the customer and not about profitability. We have to balance private investment power with state support."

Under the theme 'The Future of Made in Europe', the Vodafone Institute brought together high-ranking European politicians to debate how to shape digital change in Europe. Speakers included German Chancellor Merkel, EU Commissioner Günter Oettinger and Austrian Minister of Economy, Margarete Schramböck; top executives of international companies such as Tom Enders (Airbus), Philippe Donnet (Generali) and Alex Karp (Palantir) as well as Reiner Hoffmann (DGB); leading scientists such as Prof. Sami Haddadin, Prof. Luciano Floridi, Prof. Denis Snower and Andreas Schleicher (OECD), amongst others.

In his opening speech at the Digitising Europe Summit, Nick Read, Vodafone CEO, said, "Vodafone is a committed investor in Europe's digital future and we strive to be an invaluable partner for governments. Businesses and governments must work closely together now more than ever so that we can fast-track Europe's digital transformation to build a prosperous digital future for all European citizens."

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