

Brussels, 19 March 2025

Dear Commissioner Virkkunen,

We write to you with deep concern regarding the recent revelations of a corruption scandal involving Huawei, where lobbyists for the Chinese tech giant allegedly bribed Members of the European Parliament and exerted undue influence over European policymakers to prevent the exclusion of Huawei from Europe's 5G network.

These alarming developments underscore the urgent need for decisive action at Union level to secure our telecommunications infrastructure against undue foreign influence and security risks. We therefore call upon you to make the EU toolbox for 5G security a legally binding instrument, ensuring its full and uniform application to high-risk vendors.

During your confirmation hearing before the European Parliament, you expressed dissatisfaction with the sluggish progress made by Member States in implementing the 5G toolbox. To date, only a limited number of Member States have taken concrete steps to apply its measures and restrict high-risk vendors like Huawei and ZTE from their critical infrastructure. The continued presence of these vendors in our networks poses significant security threats, exacerbated by their deep ties to the Chinese state.

These concerns are echoed by multiple intelligence reports and the Commission, which already banned Huawei and ZTE from its own contracts. The European Court of Auditors found that in practice, as measures contained in the current toolbox have no binding effect, Member States apply divergent approaches to high-risk vendors. Former Commissioner Breton criticized the slow progress and called for a ban of high-risk vendors from our critical infrastructure to ensure a harmonized European approach.

Given these persistent security risks and the failure of several Member States to act decisively, we call upon you to propose a binding 5G Security Toolbox. Such a measure is necessary to establish a uniform and robust defense against foreign interference, strengthening Europe's digital sovereignty and resilience.

The time for voluntary measures has passed. Europe must take a firm stance against external manipulation of its security policies. We trust in your commitment to protecting the European Union's digital future and urge you to take swift and decisive action.

Yours sincerely,

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