

The USITUA is working to improve coordination and cooperation between the private sector and the U.S. Government to enhance U.S. effectiveness in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).



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February 7, 2011

Philip L. Verveer
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and
U.S. Coordinator for International Communications
and Information Policy
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and
Information and Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Herbert C. Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ambassador Verveer, Chairman Genachowski and Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As we begin 2011, the United States ITU Association (USITUA) anticipates a full year of significant and accelerating multilateral engagement and preparatory activities on vital radiocommunication and telecommunication issues being addressed at the ITU. Those activities will culminate in two global treaty-making conferences -- the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) and the first World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) -- the Radiocommunication Assembly and the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, all in 2012. Unfortunately, these important conference preparatory activities are ramping up just at the time when budgetary resources in Washington (and beyond) are increasingly scarce, particularly during this period of Continuing Resolution.

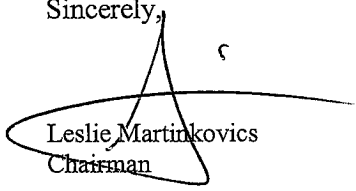
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USITUA appreciates the continuing focus of the FCC, NTIA, and State on these preparations and on the ongoing partnership with members of U.S. industry, including our Association, in these activities. We are committed to lending our assistance as an Association to do what we can to facilitate these processes with our ITU knowledge and industry expertise. In this vein, there are two particular points we wished to raise at this time:

- ❖ Despite the current CR-related challenges, we urge your agencies to devote appropriate resources to support preparatory activities at home, and to fund the travel of key personnel to relevant international meetings, including the Conference Preparatory Meeting which commences in Geneva on February 14th. With over 30 items on the WRC-12 agenda, U.S. government experts/spokespersons are necessary to advance US interests, including government and industry interests, on all of them.
- ❖ Each of the three main U.S. Government actors has a unique and important function in representing the United States' interests in our tripartite structure for international communications engagement. Each agency's active participation is essential to our overall success. Thus, all three need to remain engaged, present, and in delegation leadership roles. With respect to the upcoming WRC, for example, all three agencies should be well-represented on the U.S. Delegation.

USITUA looks forward to working closely with you this year to jointly prepare for the policy debates that lie ahead. We anticipate hosting a number of interactive sessions with you in the coming months and working at your side at upcoming preparatory sessions both here and abroad. Please do not hesitate to communicate with us on how we can be more helpful in fulfilling our common national goals at these key conferences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Martinkovics', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a large loop at the end. A small number '5' is written to the right of the signature.
Leslie Martinkovics
Chairman