

# EU approves mobile phone joint venture in Italy

September 1 2016

---



European Union Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager speaks during a media conference at EU headquarters in Brussels on, Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016. The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation a proposed telecommunications joint venture between Hutchison and VimpelCom in Italy. The approval is conditional on the divestment of sufficient assets that will allow a new operator to enter the market. (AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

The European Union's executive Commission on Thursday approved a proposed mobile phone joint venture in Italy between subsidiaries of

VimpelCom and Hutchison, conditional on the sale of assets that will allow a new French operator, Iliad, to enter the market as well.

"Today's decision ensures that the Italian mobile phone sector remains competitive, so that consumers can continue to enjoy innovative mobile services at fair prices and on high quality networks," EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

VimpelCom's subsidiary WIND and the Hutchison subsidiary, H3G, are the third and fourth largest operators in the Italian retail mobile phone market, according to EU officials.

"This case shows that telecom companies in Europe can grow by consolidation within the same country, provided effective competition is preserved," Vestager said. "It also shows they can grow by cross-border expansion, such as Iliad in this case."



European Union Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager speaks during a media conference at EU headquarters in Brussels on, Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016. The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation a proposed telecommunications joint venture between Hutchison and VimpelCom in Italy. The approval is conditional on the divestment of sufficient assets that will allow a new operator to enter the market. (AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: EU approves mobile phone joint venture in Italy (2016, September 1) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-09-eu-mobile-joint-venture-italy.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.