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COMPTEL Identifies International Trade Barriers in Germany and Mexico in Annual Comments to the United States Trade Representative

WASHINGTON, D.C. – COMPTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive communications industry, today filed comments with the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) identifying two countries in which COMPTEL members continue to encounter significant market barriers. In its comments, COMPTEL discussed the numerous issues faced in Germany and Mexico, which are not complying with World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations or U.S. telecommunications trade agreements.

Specifically, Germany still has not fully implemented its commitments under the WTO’s General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). In light of the importance of the German market and continued government ownership of 31.75 percent of Deutsche Telekom, COMPTEL noted that this market still merits the USTR’s attention. Also of concern is the discriminatory treatment of competitors in regulatory proceedings regarding Deutsche Telekom, as well as the country’s failure to implement access obligations and require interconnection at cost-based rates.

In Mexico, despite years of complaints and petitions to curb Telmex’s monopolistic actions, the Mexican government has not taken serious action, COMPTEL noted. COMPTEL outlined seven serious anti-competitive activities undertaken by Telmex, and expressed concern about the independence of Mexico’s regulatory agency COFETEL from government interference.

COMPTEL’s comments filed with the USTR can be found on COMPTEL’s Website.

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About COMPTEL
Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive communications service providers and their supplier partners. COMPTEL members are entrepreneurial companies driving technological innovation and creating economic growth through competitive voice, video, and data offerings and the development and deployment of next-generation, IP-based networks and services. COMPTEL advances its members’ interests through trade shows, networking, education, and policy advocacy before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the courts. COMPTEL works to ensure that competitive communications providers can continue to offer lower prices, better service, and greater innovation to consumers. For more information, visit www.comptel.org.