



### Vodafone opens its new office in Berlin

### Schäuble and Ametsreiter emphasise the need for a strong Europe

- German Finance Minister talks about Europe's future
- Wolfgang Schäuble: "Hoping for a European digital union"
- Hannes Ametsreiter: "Fair competition and future technologies are the key to a successful Europe"
- Start of the Vodafone Foundation's "Chancen denken" event series

**Berlin, 28 September – In his speech at the opening of Vodafone Germany's new Berlin Office, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble (CDU) talked about the need for a European digital union.**

"We have to create a single European continent, which is why I'm hoping that the European digital union will soon become a reality," said Schäuble. The German Finance Minister continued, "We can only overcome future challenges within a European framework."

The German Finance Minister and Vodafone Germany's CEO Hannes Ametsreiter spoke about the future of Europe to around 100 prominent guests from politics, business and the media. The new Vodafone Berlin Office on Behrensstrasse will be accommodating the Vodafone Foundation, the Vodafone Institute and Vodafone Public Affairs.

"People have profited immensely from a stable and strong Europe over recent decades," said Vodafone Germany's CEO Hannes Ametsreiter. "The keys to Europe's success have always been and always will be fair competition and future technologies. A gigabit society will provide many more people with access to education and labour markets than in the past. Making this vision a lasting, pan-European reality is in the primary interest of Vodafone as Europe's leading telecommunication services provider. The latest EU framework on telecommunications confirms that we have adopted the right strategy."

Schäuble's speech at Vodafone's Berlin Office marked the beginning of the Vodafone Foundation's "Chancen denken" (*Creating opportunities – thinking for the future*)



event series. It gives leaders in politics, science and industry the opportunity to put forward their views at sporadic intervals. Key issues covered include education, equality of opportunity and social cohesion.

The Public Affairs Department, the Vodafone Institute and the staff of the Vodafone Foundation will be working together under one roof at Vodafone Germany's new Berlin Office on Behrenstrasse. Ideas and projects relating to current and future challenges that create sustainable value for society will be developed here.

At the Vodafone Berlin Office opening event, Wolfgang Schäuble was joined by numerous other key decision-makers such as the Parliamentary Secretary of State to the German Minister for Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Norbert Barthle, the Chairman of the Foreign Committee, Norbert Röttgen, Berlin's Senator for Economic Affairs Cornelia Yzer, Berlin's Senator of Justice Thomas Heilmann, the CDU's Internet Policy Spokesperson, Thomas Jarzombek, ANGA President Thomas Braun and many parliamentary secretaries of state.