The EIB and Cellnex sign a €375 million loan to support the rollout of 5G infrastructure and Europe's digital transition

- **The loan will enable Cellnex to mobilise a total investment of €770 million in mobile telecommunications infrastructure in Spain, France, Italy and Portugal.**
- **The project accelerates Europe's digital transition, strengthens the EU's competitiveness and strategic autonomy, and promotes investment in essential infrastructure in cohesion regions.**
- **The operation is part of TechEU, the EIB Group initiative to foster technological and digital innovation in the EU by mobilising €250 billion in investment.**

Barcelona, 3 November 2026 – The European Investment Bank (EIB), part of the European Investment Bank Group (EIB Group), and Cellnex have signed a €375 million loan to support the development of 5G mobile telecommunications infrastructure in Spain, France, Italy and Portugal.

This loan will enable Cellnex to mobilise a total investment of €770 million to enhance and extend the coverage and capacity of very high-capacity mobile network infrastructure in these countries, meeting high demand in areas with heavy traffic and helping to accelerate the digital transition in both urban and rural areas. These investments contribute to Europe's competitiveness and strategic autonomy.

Among other measures, the project will include new telecommunications infrastructure, such as mobile telecommunications towers and urban sites, upgrades to enable this infrastructure to be shared by multiple operators and support the rollout of 5G networks, and distributed antenna systems to significantly increase capacity at sites. It also includes investment to modernise Spain's digital terrestrial television network.

The project exemplifies the open-access business model used by passive telecommunications infrastructure providers such as Cellnex. This model promotes site sharing among multiple operators, reducing the total number of towers needed without compromising network capacity or coverage, or the quality of digital services provided to citizens.

Around half of the new towers will be installed in cohesion regions, helping to bridge the digital divide and generate socioeconomic benefits in the areas covered by the project. This is the third operation between the EIB and Cellnex to support the development of mobile telecommunications infrastructure in Europe.

"Advanced digital connectivity is key to strengthening Europe's competitiveness and strategic autonomy. With this financing, we are supporting the rollout of essential infrastructure for the development of 5G networks in Spain, France, Italy and Portugal, improving connectivity for citizens and businesses and helping to narrow the digital divide between regions", said **Pilar Solano, Director of the EIB's EU Corporate Finance Department**.

Raimon Trias, CFO of Cellnex, said: *"This third operation with the European Investment Bank consolidates our relationship with a leading institution and reaffirms our shared commitment to Europe's digital transformation and territorial cohesion. The financing will enable us to support our customers in the rollout of shared infrastructure and the expansion of 5G in Spain, France, Italy and Portugal, improving connectivity and narrowing the digital divide. Its tenor and competitive terms will help strengthen our financial structure and extend the average maturity of our debt".*

The financing agreement with Cellnex makes a significant contribution to the eight priorities set out in the EIB Group Strategic Roadmap 2024–2027, particularly those focused on fostering technological innovation and digitalisation, as well as cohesion between regions. It also contributes to TechEU, the EIB Group programme designed to accelerate innovation in the EU, which aims to mobilise €250 billion in investment by 2027 for startups, scaleups and innovative companies across Europe.

About Cellnex

Cellnex is Europe's leading telecommunications infrastructure operator and provides mobile operators with access to an extensive and efficient shared network. This model lowers barriers to entry, improves coverage in urban and rural areas, and supports the sustainable rollout of digital services.

In addition to its core business in towers and sites, **Cellnex offers a broad portfolio of connectivity solutions,** including radio and television broadcasting, emergency and public safety networks, indoor coverage in complex environments, and infrastructure for transport networks.

Cellnex manages a portfolio of more than **115,000 sites**, excluding planned rollouts through 2030, across 10 European countries, with a strong presence in Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Italy and Poland. Cellnex is listed on the Spanish stock exchange, is a constituent of the IBEX 35 and Euro Stoxx 100 and maintains strong positions in leading sustainability indices and ratings, including Sustainalytics, MSCI, S&P Global CSA, EcoVadis and CDP.

For more information: Cellnex

EIB Group

The European Investment Bank Group (EIB Group) is the financial arm of the European Union, owned by its 27 Member States, and is one of the world's largest multilateral development banks. In 2025, the EIB Group signed €100 billion in new financing and advisory services for more than 870 high-impact projects across its eight core priorities that contribute to the EU's strategic objectives: climate action and the environment, digitalisation and technological innovation, security and defence, territorial cohesion, agriculture and the bioeconomy, social infrastructure, global partnerships, and the Savings and Investments Union. Beyond long-term loans for major infrastructure, the EIB Group attracts private investment for high-risk innovative companies and projects and plays an increasingly important role in Europe's markets for *venture debt*, venture capital, guarantees and securitisations.

In Spain, the EIB Group carried out financing and investment operations totalling approximately €11 billion in 2025, supplemented by an additional €2.9 billion through the Regional Resilience Fund (NextGenerationEU loans).

The European Investment Fund (EIF) is the EIB Group subsidiary specialising in providing guarantees, securitisations and equity to improve access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises and startups across Europe. As an anchor investor, the EIF mobilises private investment and fosters the venture capital fund ecosystem to support innovative European entrepreneurs through an extensive network of partner banks and investment funds. Backed by the EU's 27 Member States, the EIF has established a pan-European alliance with institutional investors to mobilise up to €80 billion in investment to help innovative companies become global leaders. This joint effort will expand both the scale and reach of the successful European Tech Champions initiative, which, since its launch three years ago, has contributed to the creation of 15 European megafunds and the growth of 50 companies, including 15 unicorns.

Photographs of EIB Group representatives and headquarters, as well as logo files and B-roll footage for media use, are available here.

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