Statement of Non-Materiality of Water

Dear Stakeholders,

As members of the European Wireless Infrastructure Association (EWIA), we are committed to transparency and sustainability in all aspects of our operations. As part of our ongoing efforts to provide clear and accurate information to our stakeholders, we would like to address the topic of water consumption within our industry.

Non-Materiality of Water in Our Operations

EWIA members (TowerCos) operate telecommunications services, primarily focusing on hosting our customers on our sites and providing them with space and power to distribute their telecommunication signals through their own equipment to end customers and society. In the course of our main activities, water consumption is non-existent. Telecommunication sites are purpose-built as non-habitable facilities and are not intended for human occupancy at any time. Consequently, they are not equipped with water supply or wastewater systems, as such infrastructure is unnecessary for their operational function[1]. Water is only consumed in our offices by our employees for purposes that can be assimilated to domestic use.

Materiality Assessments

Our focus is on prioritising and allocating resources to material issues for our industry, such as climate change, circular economy and biodiversity. This prioritisation is supported by various materiality studies we have conducted, which consistently indicate that water use has never been a material issue for TowerCos[2].

Commitment to Responsible Use of Resources

While water is not a material issue for TowerCos, we remain committed to the responsible use of all resources, including water. We continuously strive to minimize our environmental impact and promote sustainable practices across our operations. This includes efficient use of energy, reduction of waste, and responsible management of any resources we do utilize. Our commitment to sustainability is reflected in our policies, practices, and the continuous improvement of our environmental performance.

Conclusion

Given the non-materiality of water in our operations, we kindly request that sustainability indexes and other relevant stakeholders consider removing water-related questionnaires for our sector. This will allow us to focus our reporting and resources on the most pertinent environmental issues that align with our operational realities and sustainability goals. We believe this adjustment will lead to more accurate and meaningful sustainability assessments for companies like those in the EWIA.

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[1] Mainly related to the operation of telecom passive infrastructure (towers), which is the industry's core business.

[2] When considering the entire life cycle of the tower, operation is the phase with the greatest impact, with water use being irrelevant.

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EWIA EUROPEAN WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATION

EWIA member companies

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