This liaison statement is to advise you that WP3/15, having responsibility for Optical Transport Networks, has initiated a new work item to produce a Technical Report, GSTR-TN5G, on “Transport network support of IMT-2020/5G”. This Technical Report will describe the high level architecture for a Transport Network to support the requirements of IMT-2020/5G networks with a focus on supporting the radio network specified by 3GPP. This description will include the following:

- A reference model for the IMT-2020/5G transport network (with the terminology clarified)
- A set of deployment scenarios including details on:
  - Transport network topology
  - Interfaces between the IMT-2020/5G entities to the transport network
    - distance between these entities
    - number of interfaces; interface bit rate; total capacity
    - latency requirements
    - synchronization requirements
- Control/Management interfaces
- Support of IMT-2020/5G network slicing (data plane and control plane)

GSTR-TN5G will provide guidance that will allow the other Questions of WP3/15 to work efficiently in the development of new, revised or amended G series Recommendations that will enable the Transport Network to support IMT 2020/5G. It is anticipated that, where necessary, the
corresponding work items will be added to the work programme in February 2018. To advance this work we plan to hold an interim meeting 16-20 October 2017 in Europe.