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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Global semiconductor industry meets to discuss challenges and ambitions beyond the pandemic

The European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA) welcomes the World Semiconductor Council's (WSC) agreement on joint recommendations. High-level executives from the world's leading semiconductor companies gathered for the 25th time to discuss ways to foster innovation and strengthen competitiveness through international cooperation. As a charter member since 1997, ESIA represents the interests of the European semiconductor industry at the WSC.

Chief executive officers and industry representatives from around the globe¹ discussed a broad range of pressing issues such as the importance of cooperative approaches in protecting the environment, responsible minerals sourcing, free & open markets and regional support programmes, as well as encryption policies and effective protection of intellectual property rights.

The meeting of the WSC marked the completion of the current voluntary perfluorinated greenhouse gases emission programme, with the industry achieving a (normalised) emissions reduction of 22.9% from 2010 to 2020. The WSC is now working on establishing a new perfluorinated greenhouse gas reduction goal, to be announced by the end of 2021.

The global semiconductor industry is experiencing a very high level of demand, driven in part by an unprecedented portion of the workforce being reliant on remote work connections and the growing pervasion of semiconductors in all applications. At a time when several governments are launching investment initiatives to support and strengthen advanced semiconductor industry initiatives, the WSC underlined that government support in the semiconductor sector should be built upon a fair multilateral trading system and guided by market-based factors.

ESIA President Jean-Marc Chéry said: *"The consequences of the pandemic and a strong growth in orders covering all applications will continue to shape our market and industry's supply chain dynamics. It is crucial that the WSC leads the way to a fair and transparent level-playing field, built upon an efficient multilateral trading system."*

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About ESIA: *The European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA) is the voice of the semiconductor industry in Europe. Its mission is to represent and promote the common interests of the Europe-based semiconductor industry towards the European institutions and stakeholders in order to ensure a sustainable business environment and foster its global competitiveness. As a provider of key enabling technologies, the industry creates innovative solutions for industrial development, contributing to economic growth and responding to major societal challenges. Being ranked as the most R&D-intensive sector by the European Commission, the European semiconductor ecosystem supports approx. 200.000 jobs directly and up to 1.000.000 induced jobs in systems, applications and services in Europe. Overall, micro- and nano-electronics enable the generation of at least 10% of GDP in Europe and the world.*

¹ The WSC is an international forum that brings together industry leaders to address issues of global concern to the semiconductor industry. It is comprised of the semiconductor industry associations of China, Chinese Taipei, Europe, Japan, Korea, and the United States.