Eutelsat Statement on Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)

Paris, 15 October 2012 – Arqiva and Eutelsat have jointly agreed to terminate broadcasts via Eutelsat’s HOT BIRD satellites of channels belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB). This decision was based on reinforced EU Council sanctions and a confirmation by France’s broadcasting authority that the Sahar 1 TV channel that broadcast in IRIB’s multiplex of television and radio services should be permanently switched off.

IRIB has been informed of the termination of its contract. Transmissions consequently ceased this morning through the HOT BIRD transponder.

Notes to editors:
France’s broadcasting authority (the Conseil Supérieur de l’Audiovisuel) confirmed its decision of 2005 that the Sahar 1 channel should be permanently switched off via Eutelsat’s Hot Bird satellites. As a French company, Eutelsat is bound to comply with instructions from the French broadcasting authority.
Moreover, Ezzattollah Zarghami, as the head of IRIB, was included in the list of European Union sanctioned persons disclosed on March 23, 2012, following a violation of human rights by IRIB in its programming.

About Eutelsat Communications (www.eutelsat.com)
Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL, ISIN code: FR0010221234) is the holding company of Eutelsat S.A. With capacity commercialised on 29 satellites that provide coverage across Europe, as well as the Middle East, Africa and significant parts of Asia and the Americas, Eutelsat is one of the world's three leading satellite operators. As of 30 June 2012 Eutelsat’s satellites were broadcasting more than 4,250 television channels to over 200 million cable and satellite homes in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The Group’s satellites also serve a wide range of fixed and mobile telecommunications services, TV contribution markets, corporate networks, and broadband markets for Internet Service Providers and for transport, maritime and in-flight markets. Eutelsat’s broadband subsidiary, Skylogic, markets and operates high speed Internet services through teleport in France and Italy that serve consumers, enterprises, local communities, government agencies and aid organisations in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Headquartered in Paris, Eutelsat and its subsidiaries employ just over 750 commercial, technical and operational professionals. This culturally diverse staff comprises employees from 30 countries.