

**Media Contact:**

Thomas Sullivan, (202) 418-0437  
Thomas.Sullivan@fcc.gov

**For Immediate Release**

**FCC INTERNATIONAL BUREAU REMOVES CUBA FROM THE EXCLUSION LIST**

WASHINGTON, January 15, 2016 – The International Bureau today removed Cuba from the Commission’s Exclusion List for International Section 214 Authorizations, also known as the Exclusion List. The Exclusion List identifies countries and facilities that are not covered by grant of a global facilities-based Section 214 application and require a separate international Section 214.

By removing Cuba from the Exclusion list, the Commission opens the door for U.S. telecom carriers to provide facilities-based telephone and Internet service to Cuba without separate approval from the Commission. Cuba was the last remaining country on the Commission’s Exclusion List. Today’s Order becomes effective upon release.

Specifically, this action allows carriers seeking new international Section 214 authority for facilities-based service to Cuba to receive such authority sooner, and permits carriers with existing global Section 214 authority to provide services between the United States and Cuba without additional authorization.

Removing Cuba from the Exclusion List benefits the public interest as it will likely alleviate administrative and cost burdens on both the applicant and the Commission, and will promote competition on the U.S.-Cuba route.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*