*for immediate release*

**Every game of Women’s World Cup in France pirated by beoutQ, but major legal break-through as French court rules that beoutQ is distributed on Arabsat**

**PARIS, DOHA, LONDON – 14 June 2019** – In a major legal break-through in the relentless fight to stop the Saudi Arabia-backed pirate operation beoutQ, a French court has held that Arabsat – the Saudi-headquartered regional satellite provider – distributes beoutQ on its satellites, despite Arabsat’s two year denial of any involvement in the world’s most notorious pirate broadcasting operation. The ruling came on the day that it was revealed that every single game so far of the FIFA Women’s World Cup 2019 in France has been illegally shown on beoutQ.

The legal case against Arabsat was brought by beIN MEDIA GROUP (‘beIN’) which was the initial target of beoutQ’s theft of world sport and entertainment. beoutQ’s piracy operation now affects broadcasters and rights-holders all around the world. beIN’s case was brought before the *President of the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris* in France because beIN has been unlawfully denied any legal recourse in Saudi Arabia where the pirate operation is based.

The purpose of beIN’s case was to establish in a court of law that, despite its denials, Arabsat has been carrying beoutQ’s pirate broadcasts. This was definitively established 12 months ago by three of the world’s leading digital security and technology companies, Cisco Systems, NAGRA and Overon, and now it has been confirmed by a European court of law. Since beoutQ’s piracy began in 2017, Arabsat has, quite remarkably, denied any connection with the pirate broadcasting operation – despite beoutQ openly advertising on its Facebook and social media channels the relevant Arabsat frequencies. Arabsat has ignored literally hundreds of legal take-down notices from international broadcasters and rights-holders.

Remarkably, in response to independently-commissioned technical testing carried out for the French legal case, Arabsat frequently switched the satellite frequencies on which beoutQ’s channels are carried – including to frequencies not accessible in France and North Africa – in order to deceive the court and try to evade detection and so that the French court could not make further rulings against it. Further, for months beoutQ falsely claimed that it was a Cuban and Colombian operation until the governments of both countries issued categorical denials. Although Arabsat argued that “only beoutQ broadcasts the pirate broadcasts", the court sided with beIN, so Arabsat can no longer maintain that it does not broadcast beoutQ.

The French ruling came on the same day that it was revealed that all first 17 games of the FIFA Women’s World Cup 2019 in France so far have been illegally shown on beoutQ, in further direct theft of FIFA’s intellectual property after all 64 games of the men’s FIFA World Cup in Russia were stolen in 2018. Earlier this week, Luigi de Siervo, CEO of Lega Serie A, stated that Serie A was lobbying the Italian government to take decisive action against beoutQ and that it was also reconsidering its deal to host its Super Cup games in Saudi Arabia. The US and UK governments, the European Commission and the World Trade Organisation are all actively engaged on the matter.

**Commenting on the judgment, Yousef Al-Obaidly, CEO of beIN MEDIA GROUP, said:** “*This latest legal ruling in France shows that even if we are illegally denied access to justice in Saudi Arabia, we will use every means possible to hold beoutQ and Arabsat to account for their daily theft of rights-holders’ intellectual property. But we are not fighting this battle alone – the weight of the international community is now firmly coming to bear on Saudi Arabia to end its safe haven for piracy, which is destroying not only the economic model of the global sports and entertainment industry, but the livelihoods of content creators all around the world.*”

**In its ruling, the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris endorsed the technical reports produced by beIN and confirmed Arabsat’s involvement:** “*The reports conclude that the beoutQ channels were available on June 18 and 24, 2018 on frequency 11919 MHz H and frequency 12207 MHz V via the Badr-4 satellite, operated by ARABSAT...It also appears from ARABSAT's own website that its Badr-4 satellite covers the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) and according to the footprint shown in the diagram of the site, its coverage also extends to parts of Europe, including the far south of France.*”

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**FIFA Women’s World Cup France 2019 – matches pirated by beoutQ** *[various photos attached]*

Friday 7 June – France vs South Korea

Saturday 8 June – Germany vs China

Saturday 8 June – Spain vs South Africa

Saturday 8 June – Norway vs Nigeria

Sunday 9 June – Australia vs Italy

Sunday 9 June – Brazil vs Jamaica

Sunday 9 June – England vs Scotland

Monday 10 June – Argentina vs Japan

Monday 10 June – Canada vs Cameroon

Tuesday 11 June – New Zealand vs Netherlands

Tuesday 11 June – Chile vs Sweden

Tuesday 11 June – USA vs Thailand

Wednesday 12 June – Nigeria vs South Korea

Wednesday 12 June – Germany vs Spain

Wednesday 12 June – France vs Norway

Thursday 13 June – Australia vs Brazil

Thursday 13 June – South Africa vs China

**- NOTES TO EDITORS -**

**beIN MEDIA GROUP** is a leading independent global media group and one of the foremost sports & entertainment networks in the world. The group distributes and produces an unrivalled array of entertainment, live sport and major international events across 5 continents, 43 countries and in 7 different languages spanning Europe, North America, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East & North Africa (MENA).

beIN MEDIA GROUP’s flagship sports network, **beIN SPORTS**, holds the single largest portfolio of sports rights of any global broadcaster; and through its iconic **MIRAMAX** film studio, beIN holds an extensive library of Hollywood blockbusters while having a growing presence in series and movies production and distribution, as well as in the digital space. beIN MEDIA GROUP acquired **Digiturk**, the leading pay-tv operator in Turkey, in August 2016; and now has over 55 million subscribers worldwide.

For more information on beIN MEDIA GROUP, please contact: mediaoffice@bein.net.