

High level Group of Regulatory Authorities in the Field of Broadcasting

Conclusions of the chair

Annual meeting

1. During the annual meeting convened by the European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Viviane Reding, the Presidents of national Authorities in the Field of Broadcasting reconfirmed their commitment to respecting the Fundamental freedoms which are enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union as well as in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. This includes in particular guaranteeing freedom of speech in audiovisual media services and fighting efficiently incitement to hatred.
2. The Regulators and the European Commissioner took note of the progress in implementing the agreed conclusions and welcomed notably the establishment of a restricted internet forum by the Commission in close cooperation with the existing EPRA forum. They reaffirm their intention to actively participate in this restricted internet forum reserved for Regulators and the European Commission.
3. The Regulators took note of the legislative proposal of the modernisation of the Television without Frontiers Directive and welcomed notably the objective of fighting against incitement to hatred as well as the new provision on the independence of regulators. They acknowledged the need to improve the level playing field between all providers of audiovisual media services and to foresee an appropriate, light touch, legal framework for non linear audiovisual media services.
4. The Regulators and the European Commissioner evoked the possibilities digital television offers especially for the availability of varied European content and the deployment of new services. They recognised the opportunities of digital Television in general and of the digital dividend in particular and recalled the importance of the switch-over/switch-off process.
5. The Regulators and the European Commissioner underlined the importance of the deployment of mobile services in Europe, especially in the light of mobile TV, that may well become the next key application for mobile systems.
6. While it is acknowledged that licensing decisions remain a national prerogative, the regulators and the European Commissioner expressed the desirability of establishing common base of knowledge with respect to the question of mobile broadcast licensing as far as this question falls in the competence of the Regulatory Authorities in the Field of Broadcasting.

7. In particular, the Regulators and the European Commissioner would then be better placed to assess the extent to which diverging approaches to mobile licensing might be detrimental to the deployment of pan-European services and infrastructure