

**European Commission
Issue Papers**

A note

by

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A note by the WorldDAB Forum in response to the Commission's Issue Papers for the Liverpool Audiovisual Conference

WorldDAB has read with interest the five Issue Papers published by the Commission Services in the context of the Television Without Frontiers Directive Review ahead of the Liverpool Audiovisual Conference.

The WorldDAB Forum includes in its membership many manufacturing, broadcasting and other businesses and interests. A number of these may be responding independently to the Issue Papers and some may hold views different from each other on points of detail. WorldDAB therefore confines its brief remarks to those relevant to the European technology it seeks to promote.

WorldDAB hopes it is helpful to remind the Commission in the context of its regulatory considerations that the Eureka 147 technology on and in which DAB, DXB and DMB broadcast activities are based is arguably currently one of the World's most advanced wireless platforms for converged digital content. Although levels of development differ substantially from country to country, the developing multiplex infrastructures based on Eureka 147 technology both in and outside Europe has meant that audio, audio-visual, text and other data content is increasingly available on mobile receivers at no cost to citizens across, and in regions of, many Member States.

WorldDAB understands why the Commission may wish to consider Europe-wide content regulation across **all** broadcast media. However, WorldDAB hopes that, if digital radio was to be included in a European regulatory Directive, any regulation would be checked for relevance and kept to a necessary minimum to encourage the flexibility and opportunity for lateral thinking and development that will enable Eureka 147 technology to provide compelling benefits to citizens.

WorldDAB

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The WorldDAB Forum is an international, non-governmental organisation whose role is to promote the awareness, adoption and implementation of the DAB technology - based on the Eureka 147 DAB system - worldwide, to the lasting economic and social benefit of all concerned.

WorldDAB is dedicated to encouraging international co-operation and co-ordination between sound and data broadcasters, network providers, manufacturers, governments and official bodies, thus gaining consensus for the smooth roll-out of DAB. The Forum represents more than one hundred companies and organisations from all sections of the broadcasting industry and from 25 countries. They include public and private broadcasters, DAB receiver and other electronic equipment manufacturers; transmission providers, regulators and governmental bodies (for more information, visit www.worldddab.org).

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