

Public Hearing; 23 September 2009

Priorities for a new Strategy for European Information Society (2010-2015)

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### **Statement on Public Safety Services**

It is widely accepted that the information society has the potential to enable very significant benefits to citizens. There are now many national projects that have as their goal the development of improved ICT tools and communications facilities by an ever-greater proportion of the population. It is beyond dispute that the European Union has to focus on the priorities for a new strategy beyond 2010.

The public consultation on Post-i2010 objectives addresses a wide range of extremely important facets of this subject and Motorola will respond to it, supporting very clear goals be set in a range of areas such as efficiency enabling, a range of fiscal incentives and funding, networks, energy and the environment, security and most important, ubiquity.

**Motorola takes the view that safety and security are key components in society that must be safeguarded to ensure the prosperity of all. ICT is vital to enhance public services, such as the emergency services, and meet the European Union's goal of protecting citizens' lives.** Our recommendation is to ensure that **the vision of post-i2010 Information Society fully encompasses the provision of enhanced public safety services for us all**. If left unaddressed, this would significantly inhibit the benefits that can be gained from the ICT-enabled economic and social benefits.

No doubt public safety professionals will say there are many things, which if done would help them improve the efficiency of the service they already provide. A vital component of this would be upgrades to the ICT & communications facilities. At Motorola, we believe that better information brings better decisions to deliver the best outcomes: Enhanced broadband capabilities will empower public protection organizations to move human resources into the field, increase situational awareness and facilitate better command and control and importantly collect and disseminate timely information such as medical records, details of dangerous substances, maps, pictures and video to the various emergency responders

**To support these new communications services sufficient & dedicated spectrum is needed.** Existing dedicated radio communication systems used by our emergency services cannot support future important operational requirements that will involve mission-critical data or video communications needed by our emergency services. To support these new communications needs, the emergency services will require additional spectrum to be made available to enable them to deploy the latest technologies to meet their evolving operational requirements. The emergency services need dedicated and harmonized spectrum due to the nature of their operations: They need dedicated spectrum because they cannot afford to have interruptions in communications, and harmonized spectrum because they need scale economies and cross-border cooperation in their operations. This would provide the opportunity to use the latest technology to access and transmit information that could save vital seconds in emergencies and save lives every year.

**The public safety services already have communications networks. However these are becoming more congested due to more and more traffic being loaded on them. The rising need to add further operational capability makes this spectrum shortage more acute.**

**As Europe is now preparing to launch the Multi-Annual strategy on Spectrum Management, it is important to include the planning for the evolving spectrum needs of the emergency services.**

In sum, the planning for the post i2010 agenda and the creation of the European Spectrum Roadmap provide together a unique opportunity to implement spectrum reform efficiently and ensure that the communication needs of emergency services are adequately met for the benefit of all.

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