

Memo to the attention of the Communications Committee

DIGITAL SWITCH OVER PLANS IN LUXEMBOURG

The Situation in Luxembourg

The majority of Luxembourg's households receive their TV programmes via cable (> 90%). While most programmes are transmitted in analogue, some digital programmes are already offered. At least one of the major cable operators already offers new digital programmes.

In addition, digital programmes can already be received via satellite.

Luxembourg has taken the decision not to develop a switchover plan with specific target dates for terrestrial broadcasting; a market-driven approach is favoured instead.

For the time being, Luxembourg has put into service 3 digital transmitters (channel 41) in a single frequency network (SFN) in Luxembourg City and surroundings carrying one TV channel and offering the possibility to implement tests and field trials.

One of the analogue channels (channel 7) has already been put out of service and digital transmissions have been started in a test phase. This channel will be coordinated to offer digital services with regional coverage.

Within the framework of convergence, DVB-T could be used in Luxembourg to offer supplementary services in combination with mobile networks as well as portable and mobile reception of TV programmes using the new DVB-H standard.

Luxembourg considers that it is very important that coverage spill over into the boarder regions of Member States will be preserved in the digital world in order to allow continued reception of free to air broadcasting from neighbouring States. In particular as a receiving State Luxembourg highly values the exchange of information and the cultural benefits of cross boarder TV reception. Digital switch over might have a considerable downside for European integration if natural switch over of free to air broadcasting is not preserved. It is part of Luxembourg's switch over strategy to encourage and facilitate continued cross boarder broadcasting.

Luxembourg, January 27, 2005