

Ministry of Transport

Riga 01.06.2005. No.10-10/499

Communication Committee

Digital broadcasting 'switchover' in Latvia

Following the Communication of European Commission (*Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting (from digital 'switchover' to analogue 'switch-off')*"); COM(2003) 541 final, Brussels 17.09.2003) and taking into consideration the *Communication of European Commission (Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on accelerating the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting (COM(2005) 204 final, Brussels 24.05.2005)* the Government of the Republic of Latvia would like to inform Communication Committee that Latvia is drafting the strategy of the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting (terrestrial). In this particular purpose the team of experts has been set up, and the document is prepared to submit for approval by the Cabinet of Ministers.

The representative of Ministry of Transport has been systematically informing the COCOM subgroup CBISS about the work progress. The draft strategy paper schedules 2012 as the date of completing analogue switch-off.

Terrestrial digital television (DTV) implementation in Latvia is planned in 4 stages:

1. stage 01.01.2005. – 01.01.2006.

Approving of the DTV implementation policy document;

Informative campaign about terrestrial DTV.

Terrestrial DTV available in test regime in Riga (free of charge) since 2002.

2. stage 01.01.2006.-01.01.2010.

Preparing of the technical documentation for terrestrial DTV implementation and starting DTV implementation from one region to another (starting with Riga)

3. stage 01.01.2010.-01.01.2011.

Analogue TV switch off, starting with most prepared regions.

4. stage. 01.01.2011.

Provision of maximum coverage of terrestrial DTV broadcasting in Latvia and complete analogue TV switch off (planned year 2012).

Yours faithfully,

Deputy state secretary

G.Mačs