

From: Paul Caruana

Dear Sir/Madam,

Many thanks for allowing the general public to air its views on this subject. There is no doubt in my mind that this will be a unique opportunity to increase broadband wireless access (BWA) to the general public, both for data and voice services.

In this respect, the role of the EU should be, I think, to make sure that such BWA is granted only to commercial companies accepting the following conditions:

1 - They should use the latest technology, so as to make use of the licenced spectrum as efficiently as possible. An example would be that such spectrum would be licenced only to wireless carriers deploying WiMax or, even better, LTE technology.

2 - They will accept to provide a basic service, using these technologies, free of charge to the general public.

It is crucial for the EU to make it clear to the national regulatory authorities that when it comes to handing over of parts of this spectrum to private companies, national governments will NOT be allowed to simply sell them to the highest bidder! Rather, national governments should look to hand over such frequencies to those companies which are willing to offer the best technologies at the best price for the consumer. It should also be made clear that such allocations are not permanent. Every few years, the situation would be reviewed, and such BWA licences may be revoked and given to a third party, if the current commercial company holding the spectrum right is deemed not to be fulfilling its obligations towards the general public.