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## Deutscher Industrie- und Handelskammertag

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Zum Thema: **Consultation document**

**Transforming the digital dividend opportunity into social benefits and economic growth in Europe**

**Der Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammertag ist im Register der Interessensvertreter der Europäischen Kommission mit der Nummer 22400601191-42 registriert.**

The European Commission has published its proposals for a common way forward towards the digital dividend. The Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce appreciates the opportunity to comment on these proposals and would like to make the following general statements:

Digitalization offers such a big scope of frequencies for both services, Broadcasting and Mobile, so that both have enough room for further development. Harmonization is the most important success factor of the digital dividend in Europe. It is the most important prerequisite for economies of scale in the field of e. g. terminal equipment and an economical success. A roadmap will be a crucial contribution to avoid uncoordinated activities which will lead to a fragmented, inefficient development in Europe.

### **3. A common way forward: towards an EU-roadmap**

We agree that a common European strategy compared to individual national plans would give the best benefit for the society. Political support of all three European institutions for a common European regulatory framework for the Digital Dividend is important.

### **4. Proposed elements for a Roadmap**

We support this proposals in general.

#### 4.2.c. Supporting research into “frequency agile” mobile communications systems

We also believe supporting research into “frequency agile” mobile communications systems is the right way to go. Spectrum is an increasingly valuable and scarce resource and all techniques to develop the spectral efficiencies should be encouraged. However it remains to be defined what is meant concretely by “frequency agile” mobile communications systems. We would recommend a technology-neutral approach to open a variety of technological innovations.

#### 4.3. Making the 800 MHz band available for low/medium power electronic communications networks, under harmonised technical conditions, following the principle of technology and service neutrality

We agree that opening of the 790-862 MHz band for wireless broadband services is the most pragmatic way forward to maximize the potentials of the digital dividend – as long as the spectrum band plan is harmonized.

### 5. Urgent actions

We welcome the initiative of the EC to terminate analogue broadcasting transmission by 2012 and a binding EC Decision on the technical harmonisation of the 790-862 MHz band. More important than a rapid availability of spectrum is that the spectrum is made available in a harmonized manner. This is the most important prerequisite for economies of scale for equipment vendors and consumer benefits and eventually releasing the digital dividend.

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The Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce is an umbrella organization for 80 Chambers of Industry and Commerce (CICs) and therefore represents the general interests of the German business community. Its CICs have over 3.6 million members, including companies of all sectors, regions and sizes.

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