

Subject: Response to the Consultation document “Transforming the digital dividend opportunity into social benefits and economic growth in Europe”

Source: Department of Communications, Ministry of Transport Republic of Latvia

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The present response to the Public consultation document represents the opinion of VAS Latvijas Valsts radio un televīzijas centrs or **Latvia State Radio And Television Centre** - a joint-stock company. The Republic of Latvia being represented by the Ministry of Transportation owns all shares of the company. VAS Latvijas Valsts radio un televīzijas centrs provides terrestrial broadcasting of radio and television covering whole territory of Latvia. The services provided also include transport of signals from studios to the transmission sites, as well as planning, design and maintenance of transmission systems.

We are contributing our opinion about the key issues concerning the key business of our company.

We believe in strategy preventing inappropriate mandatory decisions at EU level, which can be indirectly in interests of telecommunication and mobile operators and do not take into account the differences and national specifics of Member States.

Improving consumers' experience by ensuring high quality standards for terrestrial digital television receivers in Europe

We do support the ensuring the availability of compression standard on all DTT receivers¹⁷ sold after 1 January 2012 that is at least as efficient as the H264/MPEG-4 AVC standard. Currently Latvia is in ASO process, using H264/MPEG-4 AVC standard and the availability of such receivers is crucial.

Increasing the size of the digital dividend through further spectrum efficiency gains

We see the DVB-T using H264/MPEG-4 AVC as a key technology and we are using the approach of SFN in planning and deploying the necessary broadcasting infrastructure. However establishing mandatory requirements in implementation of new systems and, moreover, defining fixed terms cannot be supported as appropriate.

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

In Latvia, the 800MHz sub band will be used for television during the transition period. We cannot support the immediate action on this particular band. In our opinion the non-mandatory approach for this band provides opportunity for the Member states to use the sub band efficiently and according to the local requirements.