



4 September 2009

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Comments on consultation document; Transforming the digital dividend opportunity into social benefits and economic growth in Europe

Sweden welcomes the opportunity to comment on the consultation document, and would like to provide the following comments.

Sweden shares the view expressed in the document that the digital dividend provide decision makers and citizens with a rare opportunity to get better communications services. The release creates opportunities for new and innovative services for both TV viewers and users of electronic communications, and gives Europe the chance to stay in the global lead on technological development, economic growth and citizens' welfare.

It is also the Swedish view that, in order to grasp this opportunity, Europe must act in a concerted fashion. If the digital dividend becomes fragmented across the Member States, the opportunity will be missed. A harmonised approach to the Digital Dividend would enable increased innovation, better and more affordable equipment and services and enable users to benefit from these services while abroad. Therefore we fully share the view that there are urgent actions that need to be taken in order to accelerate an EU-wide analogue switch-off by 2012.

To summarize: Sweden welcomes the consultation document and supports the Commission's proposals and would like to express our appreciation of the fact that different aspects of the matter have been described and are proposed to be further elaborated. Sweden is also looking forward to taking part in the process for the future spectrum policy programme.