

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

4. PROPOSED ELEMENTS FOR A ROADMAP

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

a. Ensuring the availability of a compression standard on all DTT receivers sold after 1 January 2012 that is at least as efficient as the H264/MPEG-4 AVC standard.

Regarding this issue, we agree with the proposal of establishing measures to ensure that DTT receivers commercialised from a certain date include, at least, a compression standard at least as efficient as the H.264/Mpeg-4 AVC.

In Spain there exists a regulation plan, a project of royal decree, that, once approved, establishes that after 1st april 2010 all DTT receivers sold in Spain with a screen diagonal equal or larger than 53 cm shall have to incorporate an MPEG-4 (H.264) tuner.

b. Setting standards for the ability of digital TV receivers to resist interference

In relation to this point, we agree with every measure which aim is to ensure that DTT receivers commercialised in the European Union have the suitable quality conditions.

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

Having into account the current roadmap and achieved coverage of DTT in Europe, it is not considered suitable the establishment of measures, such as network migration to different standards, that could risk the success of the transition process from analogue to digital TV.

It is considered more convenient the establishment of measures that allow the stakeholders (broadcasters, mobile operators and other market players) the introduction of these new standards in their networks, as long as it is permitted by the situation of the market and the economy and by the interests of the consumers. In addition, it is considered necessary the introduction of measures tending to allow DTT receivers to be prepared for the reception of new standards like MPEG-4, as mentioned in the previous section.

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.

Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade -- Contribution to the public consultation on the digital dividend

We agree with the trend to implement different measures in order to free up the 790-862 MHz band and make it available for new services in Europe, under harmonised technical conditions and ensuring the technology and service neutrality principle.

Nevertheless, it is considered necessary to take into account the following cautions:

- The implementation deadline of these measures should be wide enough and should take into account the specific circumstances of the different Member States. Therefore, the roadmap should be flexible.
- The technical conditions established should ensure the radio-electric compatibility and the lack of interference with other services, especially with the broadcasting services allocated in the 470-790 MHz band.

4.4. Adopting a common position on the potential use of the "white spaces" as part of a possible extension of the digital dividend.

4.5. Ensuring the continuity and further development of wireless microphone applications and other secondary uses of the UHF spectrum.

Regarding the action lines mentioned in 4.4 and 4.5, we consider relevant the accomplishment of technical studies on the interleaved spectrum for use by cognitive radio equipments, wireless microphones applications and other secondary uses. In addition, it is essential that these technical studies consider and analyse the potential interferences with the services established in these radio frequencies.

4. 6. More effective cross-border coordination with non-EU countries.

It is considered, in relation with the non-EU countries coordination, that the main considerations established in the conclusions section of the "RSPG Opinion on Spectrum issues at outer EU borders" should be followed.

5. URGENT ACTIONS

We agree with the measures considered as urgent actions in this section.