

European Commission - Public Consultation

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

Cyprus Contribution

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.**

CY: We agree with the proposal. According to our initial national switch-over plan, after the switch off date the Commissioner of Electronic Communications and Postal Regulation, which is the responsible authority, was going to evaluate the available standards in the market in order to define the time of introduction of a more appropriate and efficient standard, but due to recent developments in the market this evaluation is currently underway and there is a possibility the timetable for the introduction of a more appropriate and sufficient standard to change.

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

CY: We agree with the proposal.

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

- a. Promoting collaboration between Member States to share future broadcasting network deployment plans (e.g. migration to MPEG-4 or DVB-T2).**

CY: We agree with the proposal for collaboration between Member States, but the timetable for migration to a new technology will vastly depend on the market situation in each Member State.

- b. Encouraging the deployment of Single Frequency Networks (SFNs) over Multiple Frequency Networks (MFNs).**

CY: We agree with the proposal. We have already decided to deploy single frequency networks in Cyprus.

- c. Supporting research into "frequency agile" mobile communications systems.**

CY: We agree with the proposal.

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.

CY: We don't disagree with the proposal, but Member States should maintain the right to use these frequencies (all of them or part of them) for broadcasting purposes and also should have the right to define a specific service. If service neutrality is going to be used for these bands, then it should be done in the same sense as the WAPECS concept. It should be clearly stated that this frequency band should not be reserved for the exclusive use of a particular electronic communication service, without prejudice to any obligation to provide some specific service, e.g. broadcasting and emergency services.

Our position is mainly stemming by the fact that at RRC-06 Cyprus did not manage to acquire all the frequencies needed to deploy digital terrestrial television networks, due to the fact that Turkey refused to cooperate and coordinate with Cyprus.

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

CY: We agree with the proposal.

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

CY: We agree with the proposal.

4.6 More effective cross-border coordination with non-EU countries

CY: We agree with the proposal. Emphasis should also be given to coordination with EU accession countries. Problems should be resolved if needed, as prescribed in the RSPG Opinion Spectrum Issues Concerning Outer EU Borders.

4.7 Addressing future challenges

CY: We agree with the proposal.

5. URGENT ACTIONS

5.1 Accelerating analogue switch-off by 2012

CY: We agree with the proposal. Cyprus has already decided, through a Decision of the Council of Ministers, that the switch-off date will be the 1st of July 2011. Also this date will be enforced by amending the national broadcasting legislation to terminate all analogue licenses by July 2011. The relevant legislation is currently being considered by the Parliament.

5.2 **Taking steps towards the opening of the 800 MHz band for electronic communications services by adopting harmonised technical conditions of use in Europe**

CY: We don't disagree with the proposal, but as already mention in our comments, the Member States should maintain the right to use these frequencies (all of them or part of them) for broadcasting purposes and also they should have the right to define a specific service. If service neutrality is going to be used for the above mention frequencies, it should be done in the same sense as the WAPECS concept, that is no frequency band should be reserved for the exclusive use of a particular electronic communication service, without prejudice to any obligation to provide some specific, e.g. broadcasting and emergency services.

Our position is mainly steaming by the fact that at RRC-06 Cyprus did not manage to acquire all the frequencies needed to deploy digital terrestrial television networks, due to the fact that Turkey refused to cooperate and coordinate with Cyprus.