

European Commission, General Information Society and Media

Digital Dividend Public Consultation

Germany welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the issues addressed in the document and supports especially the urgent actions mentioned in chapter 5, accelerating analogue switch-off by 2012 and taking steps towards the opening of the 800 MHz band for electronic communications services by adopting harmonised technical conditions of use in Europe.

Concerning the proposed elements for a roadmap the Federal Network Agency points out some further aspects in Annex 1. Although the spectrum issues are urgent and essential, it has to be considered that a broad acceptance is evident. That means inter alia that broadcasters – Germany preferred portable indoor reception -, cultural interested parties, consumers with their existing TV equipment and the programme making and special event industry have to agree and cooperate.

The EU and MS have to ensure that besides the urgent actions to solve spectrum questions, adjacent important issues have to be addressed immediately, e.g. interference scenarios including cable networks, interoperability, improvement of receivers, TV-standards, (intelligent) wireless microphone technologies. It seems obvious that technical, financial and time aspects are closely linked and have to be addressed accordingly. Furthermore it seems essential to keep in mind, that a European broadband strategy has to handle with future innovation and has to support new technologies helping to shift current frequency usage. The enormous expectations we have concerning the opportunities of the digital dividend need to fit a functional background. Germany refers to the coming up RSPG Opinion and its recommendations.

Germany is already in a position to present milestones of a roadmap that includes decisions of the German parliament and government (Annex 2). We therefore strongly recommend to the Commission to assure that any EU roadmap will be complete and precise and has to represent all essential topics.

