

CEEP comments to the European Commission's consultation on the "Transforming the digital dividend opportunity into social benefits and economic growth in Europe"

CEEP welcomes the opportunity to comment on the digital dividend developments in Europe.

Broadcast analogue switch-off and availability of digital dividend spectrum for mobile communications

CEEP supports the European Commission in encouraging all Member States to switch off their analogue television by the 1st January 2012.

CEEP encourages the European Commission to confirm with Member States the commitment to 1st January 2012 for the analogue broadcast switch-off and rapid borders coordination to make sure that the availability of the 790-862 MHz band for mobile communications will be simultaneous to the broadcasting analogue switch-off. Consequently it is derived from this deadline that border coordination be finalised before end of 2010. CEEP also urges the Commission to create the conditions for continuous development of terrestrial broadcasting.

Roadmap for harmonised use of the digital dividend

CEEP is supportive of the description of an EU roadmap for the digital dividend, as it will clarify the future technical usages of this spectrum band and will therefore facilitate the harmonisation across Europe.

The definition of the roadmap could be an enabler of a wide harmonisation of the digital dividend in Europe but it should not introduce delay in the release of the spectrum for mobile broadband communications at the national level.

Elements for the roadmap

CEEP supports the evolution of services and technologies for broadcasting and mobile services that improve spectrum efficiency in general and in prime low frequency bands below 1 GHz in particular.

Indeed, it seems that a study of the most suitable spectrum and platform for HDTV and later 3D-TV should be conducted taken into account where necessary regional linguistic communities and several decision-makers as it is the case in Belgium for example. Similarly, it is necessary to consider the most appropriate spectrum for mobile broadband communications services. CEEP also stresses the need to adopt harmonised technical conditions to enable coexistence in the long term of the new wireless networks and terrestrial broadcasting.

At European and national levels, CEEP supports studies on the new wireless services and demands as well as their associated means to provide them considering societal, technical and economical aspects.