

ETNO Reflection Document on a European Common Position for WRC-07 agenda item 1.4 concerning the band 470-862 MHz

Executive Summary

ETNO believes that the success of the development of innovative services is based on extensive cooperation between the different economic sectors involved in electronic communications and on an appropriate use of the radio spectrum resource.

Therefore, ETNO urges European Administrations not to miss the opportunity to have a worldwide harmonised allocation for the Mobile Service at WRC-07 in the band 470-862 MHz for the introduction of innovative communication services.

Introduction

Transition of analogue to digital technology offers improved spectrum efficiency, allowing the provision of new and enhanced TV usages and innovative telecommunication services, especially mobile, as stated by the "RSPG opinion on EU spectrum policy implications of the digital dividend".

This happens in a context where new multimedia communication carriers develop further (such as cable, satellite, ADSL, PLC) and new consumer behaviour appears, thanks to the development of the Internet based on interactivity and availability of non-linear contents. As a consequence, frontiers between the telecommunication and broadcasting world are blurring.

First experience from different European countries indicates a strong interest from the public for such new convergent services based on mobile broadband.

Under Agenda Item 1.4, next WRC will consider proposals for a mobile allocation and IMT identification in 470-862 MHz band. Based on better radio-waves propagation conditions, the use of part of this frequency range would allow enhanced coverage of rural and sparsely populated areas by broadband mobile communication networks at cost effective conditions, easing bridging the digital divide.

ETNO view

ETNO wishes to highlight the following points:

- WRC-07 provides a unique opportunity to bring some flexibility in the use of this spectrum resource on a worldwide basis, allowing evolutions of services in line with customers' expectations and needs.
- Considering that analogue broadcasting is already switched off in some countries and expected to be completed in 2011 at the latest, a co-primary mobile allocation in the 470-862 MHz band at WRC-07 is necessary for future use of the spectrum. Such an allocation should give confidence to the industry, especially in Europe, to start developing adapted systems in a timely manner.
- The success of mobile technologies is based on a harmonised approach, for global roaming, for economies of scales as well as technical reasons (design of systems, minimization of guard bands). In this context, ETNO supports the first outcome of the studies made by ECC TG4 in order to harmonize a sub-band and describe an appropriate roadmap.
- Various proposals for a mobile allocation at WRC-07 from region 2 (America) and region 3 (Asia Pacific) are already being developed. A European Common Position postponing a mobile allocation to WRC-11 would have very negative effects on worldwide harmonisation as well as on future European industry developments.

Conclusion

ETNO believes that the success of the development of innovative services is based on extensive cooperation between the different economic sectors involved in electronic communications and on an appropriate use of the radio spectrum resource.

Therefore, Europe shouldn't miss the opportunity to have a worldwide harmonised allocation at WRC-07 in the band 470-862 MHz for innovative communication services.

Consequently, ETNO urges CEPT Administrations to seize the opportunity of WRC-07 for a primary allocation to the Mobile Service in the band 470-862 MHz. Whilst such an allocation is not binding to administrations for the use of the band, postponing it would create uncertainty and lack of confidence for European industry.

Further precise identification of a sub-band at European level should be defined as soon as the ongoing compatibility studies are completed. ETNO members are actively involved in these studies and urge Administrations to finalise them as soon as possible.