

PRESS RELEASE

As the November 2015 World Radio Communication conference (WRC-15) is to crucially examine the award of co-primary status to mobile in the rest of the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) 470-694 MHz band, a brand new AETHA study^[i] released today and commissioned by a consortium composed of Abertis, Arqiva, BBC, BNE, EBU and TDF^[ii] shows there is no economic case for supporting this in Europe.

To conduct the economic assessment, this report has considered an extreme scenario in which DTT transmissions cease and consumers migrate to alternative platforms to leave 224MHz of spectrum fully available for mobile services. It has calculated the costs and benefits of this scenario over a 15 year period (2015 to 2029) and compared them to the costs and benefits of continued use of the spectrum for DTT and other existing uses.

AETHA study shows that:

- **even using the most aggressive mobile ITU traffic forecast, the benefits of a continued use of the spectrum for DTT in the Euro-28 countries outweigh the value of using the spectrum for mobile by a factor of four to one (circa 40 Billion euros versus circa 10 Billion euros).**
- **the digital terrestrial platform remains key for the cost effective delivery of linear broadcaster content to EU consumers and the use of the 470 – 694 MHz is a critical element for the platform.**

Reacting to the results of the report BNE Secretary General Lars Backlund said: *‘Terrestrial broadcast networks, with their large installed base of viewers and low cost of service provision, position DTT as the economically rationale means of delivering Audio Visual content in Europe over the long term’.*

The study reinforces the conclusions of the recent report^[iii] by Pascal Lamy to the European Commission on the Future of the UHF Band recommending long term access to UHF spectrum for DTT.

The economic findings are complemented by a careful analysis of the negative impacts the introduction of co-primary allocation could have on DTT.

Confirming the large value brought by DTT in keeping healthy competition between platforms, the findings strongly substantiate a recommendation that European national administrations should not support making a co-primary allocation to mobile at WRC-15 as no benefit is likely to be derived.

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[BNE](#) is a trade organization for Terrestrial Broadcast Network Operators for Radio and TV in Europe based in Brussels. The 16 BNE members are operating in 21 European countries. Members are Abertis (Spain), Arqiva (UK), Česká Radiokomunikace (Czech Republic), Digea (Greece), Digita (Finland), ETV (Serbia), Elettronica Industriale (Italy), Norkring (Norway), OiV (Croatia), ORS (Austria), Swisscom Broadcast (Switzerland), Radiocom (Romania), Rai Way (Italy), RTENL (Ireland), TDF (France) and Teracom (Sweden). In addition Terrestrial Network Operators in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, and Monaco are represented by their respective parent (and BNE member) company. www.broadcast-networks.eu

[AETHA](#) is a consulting firm specialised in strategic advice to the telecommunication industry. www.aethaconsulting.com

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

[i] Download Aetha report on BNE website

<http://www.broadcast-networks.eu/aetha-future-use-of-the-470-694mhz-band-in-the-eu-31-oct-2014-exec-summary-and-full-report/>

[ii] BBC: British Broadcasting Corporation

BNE: Broadcast Network Europe

EBU: European Broadcasting Union

Abertis, Arqiva and TDF are broadcast network operators

[iii] Pascal Lamy's Report:

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/report-results-work-high-level-group-future-use-uhf-band>