

# Press report

## Wider Spectrum Group event

22 October 2015

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## General press

### Politico

23 October 2015  
Laura Kayali

The Politico logo, consisting of the word "POLITICO" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font on a dark red rectangular background.

#### *Morning Newsletter Tech*

OETTINGER HOPEFUL ON SPECTRUM: EU countries will accept the Commission's next proposals on spectrum, due out next summer, said digi-commish Günther Oettinger yesterday after his keynote speech at the Wider Spectrum Group event. Harmonized 5G deployment "is in the interest of the European economy, of the economies of our member states," Oettinger said, "so I am quite optimistic our ambition is their ambition as well." A coordinated policy for the region's airwaves is not about removing competencies from individual countries, he reassured.

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### Euractiv.com

23 October 2015  
Jorge Valero



#### **Lamy: Commission should take member states to court in spectrum dispute**

[EurActiv.com](http://EurActiv.com), by [Jorge Valero](#),  
06:21 updated: 09:02



It does not make sense that the EU will not speak with one voice in the spectrum allocation conference in Geneva, says Lamy.

The European Commission has called radio spectrum used by telecoms and mobile internet services “the basis for a digitally enabled society”. Ahead of a crucial conference to take place in Geneva (2-27 November), Pascal Lamy explains why the executive should stand up for its powers in the field.

*Pascal Lamy is former Commissioner for Trade, and former chief of the World Trade Organization. Last year, [he prepared a report on the future of spectrum for the Commission](#).*

*Lamy spoke to Jorge Valero.*

### **Will the EU’s member states respect your roadmap in the upcoming Geneva conference?**

My understanding is yes. There is enough convergence among EU member states on this. For the next decade, the 700 MHz band is to be deployed for 'telecoms', and below 700 MHz is to be kept for broadcasters and TVs.

However, the member states refuse the Commission’s proposal as a formal position. This is an issue that has little to do with the telecoms and TVs, but is rather a battle of competences between the member states and the union in a federal system.

### **The treaties are not very clear on the competences on spectrum. How far should the Commission go?**

The Commission should go to the European Court of Justice. It is what the Commission did when there was a pretended lack of clarity on competences. We did it in Trade during many years, and the court always interpreted, at least on the trade side, on the direction of EU competences.

In this kind of international conference where frequencies are discussed and allocated, the issue is whether the EU should speak with one voice. The Commission says 'yes', but the member states say that we agree on defending the same position but we don’t do it as the EU, but as a collection of member states.

Frankly speaking, on an issue such as frequency allocation, it does not make sense. The coordination issues within the EU on frequency allocation are obvious, anyone can understand that.

### **Is there a risk of losing the race of the next big communications revolution in the field of the 'internet of things' or 5G, if the Commission is not more assertive?**

There is always a risk, although it is limited given the high degree of consensus on substance, which is at the end of the day what matters. Also I can understand that this is a political decision to be made by the Commission. In this case, it is not only a legal issue whether the Commission decides to take the member states to court.

### **Since the Commissioner for Digital Agenda, Günter Oettinger is German, how this could affect the decision?**

Germany is on board with my roadmap...

### **But is Germany in favour of transferring the competences at the EU level?**

I don’t know. To be very frank, this should be within the regulatory authority of the Commission, something which is obvious. If you look at China, Korea, Japan... how they deal with that, we are weak as we are not doing things together. And the best way to do things in such a technical field is to use the regulatory powers of the Commission.

### **Do you think that the executive will take member states to court?**

I don’t know. I am just giving my personal advice.

### **But for someone who has long been an EU insider, and still is... what is your feeling?**

Well, it is not a secret that I stand for a more federalist position.

Further reading

#### INDUSTRY GROUPS

- The Wider Spectrum Group [website](#)

#### EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- Digital Single Market [communication](#)
- Results of the Lamy Report Public Consultation on [spectrum](#)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/trade-society/lamy-ttips-goal-harmonise-consumer-protection-314434>

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## Euractiv.fr

23 October 2015

Jorge Valero translated by Manon Flaush



### Pascal Lamy: Le spectre radioélectrique devrait relever de la Commission, pas des États membres

[EurActiv.com](#) | [Jorge Valero](#) traduit par [Manon Flaush](#)

23 oct 2015 - 09:12



Pascal Lamy estime qu'il n'y a aucune raison de ne pas laisser la Commission gérer le sujet du spectre.

**Une importante conférence sur le spectre radioélectrique se tiendra à Genève du 2 au 27 novembre. Pascal Lamy explique que la Commission devrait tenir tête aux États qui rechignent à la laisser s'exprimer en leur nom.**

*Pascal Lamy a été commissaire européen au commerce et a dirigé l'Organisation mondiale du commerce. L'an dernier, il a préparé un rapport sur l'avenir du spectre radioélectrique pour la Commission.*

### **Les États membres respecteront-ils votre feuille de route lors de la conférence de Genève ?**

Je pense que oui. Il existe assez de convergence entre eux sur le sujet. Dans la décennie à venir, la bande 700 MHz sera déployée pour les « télécoms », et ce qui est en dessous de 700 MHz sera utilisé pour la télévision et la radio. Les États membres refusent toutefois d'accepter officiellement la proposition de la Commission. C'est un sujet qui n'a pas grand-chose à voir avec les télécommunications et la télévision, il s'agit plutôt d'un affrontement entre les États et l'UE en ce qui concerne le système fédéraliste et la répartition des compétences.

### **Les traités ne sont pas très clairs en ce qui concerne le spectre. Jusqu'où devrait aller la Commission ?**

La Commission devrait introduire des poursuites auprès de la Cour de justice européenne. C'est ce qu'elle fait quand il y a un problème de clarté sur les compétences. Nous avons fonctionné comme ça pendant des années à la DG Commerce, et la Cour a toujours rendu des jugements favorables à la compétence européenne dans notre cas. Dans ce type de conférences internationales, durant lesquelles on discute des fréquences et on les alloue, il s'agit de parler d'une seule voix pour l'UE. La Commission y est favorable, mais les États membres estiment qu'il faudrait que leur position commune soit défendue par un groupement d'États, et non par l'UE. Pour être franc, pour un sujet comme le spectre, ça n'a pas de sens. Les problèmes de coordination au sein de l'UE sont flagrants, tout le monde le comprend.

### **Risque-t-on de perdre la course pour la prochaine grande révolution des communications, l'Internet des objets ou la 5G, si la Commission ne s'affirme pas plus ?**

C'est toujours un risque, mais c'est un risque limité étant donné le grand consensus qui règne sur le fond de la question. Au final, c'est le consensus qui compte. Je peux aussi comprendre que la décision politique doive être prise par la Commission. Dans ce cas, le choix de poursuivre les États en justice n'est pas seulement une question législative.

### **Comment la nationalité allemande du commissaire au numérique, Günther Oettinger, pourrait-elle influencer la décision ?**

L'Allemagne est tout à fait d'accord avec la feuille de route...

### **Mais est-elle en faveur d'un transfert de compétences vers le niveau européen ?**

Je ne sais pas. Pour être tout à fait honnête, cela devrait relever de l'autorité législative de la Commission, c'est évident. Prenez la Chine, la Corée, le Japon. Il faut s'inspirer de la manière dont ils gèrent le sujet. Nous sommes faibles parce que nous ne faisons pas les choses ensemble. Dans un domaine aussi technique, la meilleure façon de faire les choses est d'utiliser les pouvoirs législatifs de la Commission.

### **Pensez-vous que l'exécutif poursuivra réellement les États ?**

Je ne sais pas. Je ne fais que donner mon opinion personnelle.

**Vous avez longtemps travaillé à l'UE, et vous y travaillez encore, vous avez sans doute un pressentiment ?**

Ce n'est pas un secret que je suis en faveur d'une position plus fédéraliste.

## LIENS EXTERNES GROUPES INDUSTRIELS

- The Wider Spectrum Group [website](#) (en anglais)

## COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE

- [Communication sur le marché unique numérique](#)
- [Résultats du rapport de Pascal Lamy sur le spectre](#) (en anglais)

<http://www.euractiv.fr/sections/societe-de-linformation/pascal-lamy-le-spectre-radioelectrique-devrait-relever-de-la>

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## MLex

**23 October 2015**  
**Vesela Gladicheva**



### **Oettinger sets 2020 deadline for transfer of 700MHz to mobile**

Printed on 23/10/2015 by Vesela Galdicheva (MLex)

Mobile services will secure exclusive use of the 700-megahertz band across the European Union by 2020, EU digital-economy chief Gunther Oettinger said today, foreshadowing a new law requiring countries to reallocate the frequencies.

services will secure exclusvie use of the 700-megahertz band across the European Union by 2020, EU digital-economy chief Gunther Oettinger said today, foreshadowing a new law requiring countries to reallocate the frequencies.

The European Commission will propose legislation early next year that mandates the transfer of the band away from broadcasters and technologies such as wireless microphones, Oettinger said.

"The proposal will set a binding deadline for the coordinated assignment and effective availability of the 700-megahertz band for wireless broadband and the Internet of Things," he told spectrum experts at a gathering\* in Brussels.

The decision to set the 2020 deadline is based on advice from EU governments and interested parties, Oettinger said. This is the first explicit commitment to a 2020 deadline by the commission.

#### **- 'Digital dividend' -**

The allocation of the 700MHz frequencies to mobile broadband is often referred to as "the second digital dividend." The first digital dividend came with the switch of the 800MHz band away from analog television.

Booming smartphone sales and mobile Internet traffic have already prompted EU countries including France, Sweden and the UK to consider reallocating the 700MHz band to wireless operators.

In June, the German telecom regulator sold broadband frequencies in the 700MHz range. France will auction the band by year-end.

There is wide agreement about the need to shift the 700MHz band to mobile services. But the deadline for that transfer has been hotly debated between mobile operators and broadcasters.

The commission's 2020 deadline is in the middle range of a recommendation last year from former World Trade Organization Director-General Pascal Lamy.

Following six months of discussions among mobile operators, broadcasters and makers of wireless microphones, Lamy said that the 700MHz band should be reallocated for wireless broadband between 2018 and 2022 (see here).

#### **- TV proposal-**

Oettinger today said that the market share of digital terrestrial TV varies from one EU state to another.

That's why the upcoming proposal will give governments some flexibility in terms of allowing wireless broadband to use [frequencies] below the 700-megahertz band," he said.

The transition of the sub-700MHz frequencies would be possible "only" if the frequencies are "not used for digital TV," Oettinger said.

Oettinger also said that the commission's whole proposal will be "very focused, in order to give certainty and time to adapt the allocation at an early stage."

The German politician said his proposal would also include "harmonized technical conditions for the future use of the 700-megahertz band."

Speaking at the same event, Anthony Whelan, a director at the commission's telecom department, said that the legislative proposal will include a 2025 deadline to review the usage of the reallocated 700 MHz band. That date also echoes Lamy's recommendation.

Oettinger said the proposal will also spell out "conditions to safeguard the European audiovisual model by ensuring that broadcasting [companies] have continued access to spectrum below the 700-megahertz band, reaching almost 500 million people" in the EU, Oettinger said.

The commission's proposal will ensure that makers of wireless microphones also have access to the sub-700MHz band.

\*\*Free-To-Air , Free To Create, Free To Grow," Wider Spectrum Group, Brussels, Oct. 22 2015

## Contexte

26 October 2015  
Jean-Sébastien Lefebvre

# CONTEXTE

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## CONTEXTE

POLITIQUES FRANÇAISES ET EUROPÉENNES

Briefing Numérique - Quotidien

26 octobre 2015

**Pascal Terrasse : « L'économie collaborative est une rupture qui va tout emporter » [FR].** Le député PS, chargé par Manuel Valls d'une mission sur l'économie collaborative, explique à Contexte les grands axes de son travail, qui doit déboucher sur des propositions législatives. Lire [l'interview](#).

**Uber et la fiscalité [Monde].** [La Tribune s'intéresse](#) en détail aux montages fiscaux de l'entreprise, qui lui permettent de ne pas payer d'impôts ou presque. Les mécanismes utilisés sont les mêmes que ceux actuellement dans le collimateur de la Commission européenne avec Apple, Amazon, Starbucks ou Fiat.

### Télécoms

**Nouvelle offensive pour une harmonisation européenne des fréquences hertziennes [UE].** [Les diffuseurs de contenus](#) demandent que la gestion du spectre soit une des priorités de la Commission européenne. L'ancien directeur de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce, [Pascal Lamy](#), [les soutient](#) dans leur démarche. Il a rédigé un rapport sur le sujet en 2014.

## Specialised press

### IEU Monitoring

22 October 2015



## # SPECTRUM

### Save Our Spectrum by Helmut G. Bauer: Kostbare Ressource Funkspektrum

[Visit Website](#)

EU-Kommissar Günther Oettinger. Foto: © European Union, 2014

us10.campaign-archive1.com/?u=77d47dd2d8d4f0cbbd49697a7&id=a4bb69c1fb&e=b3a019ae78

29/37

12015

DIGITAL AGENDA - IEU Monitoring

Wachstums- und Entwicklungsperspektiven der europäischen Kreativwirtschaft und ihr Bedarf an Funkfrequenzen für professionelle drahtlose Produktionen stehen im Zentrum einer Konferenz der „Wider Spectrum Group“ am Donnerstag, den 22. Oktober 2015 in Brüssel. Günther Oettinger, EU-Kommissar für Digitale Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft sowie Ex-WTO-Generaldirektor Pascal Lamy als Vorsitzender der zuständigen „High Level Group“ der EU halten die Eröffnungsreden.

#### **Kultur- und Kreativwirtschaft in Gefahr**

Hintergrund ist die drastische Verknappung von nutzbaren Funkfrequenzen für professionelle drahtlose Produktionsmittel wie Funkmikrofone nach der Versteigerung der „Digitalen Dividende 2“ an den Mobilfunk. Deutschland hat die Frequenzauktion bereits im Mai 2015 umgesetzt. In der Folge werden zur Realisierung von Bühnenevents, Studioproduktionen und journalistischen Live-Übertragungen nicht mehr genug freie Frequenzkanäle zur Verfügung stehen. Dies gefährdet Wertschöpfung und Beschäftigung in der Kultur- und Kreativwirtschaft, einem der stärksten Wirtschaftszweige Deutschlands. Mit diesen Konsequenzen und der europäischen Dimension beschäftigt sich die Veranstaltung.

#### **Frequenzpolitik entscheidet**

Angesichts des aktuell akut bedrohlichen Frequenzmangels ist die Politik dringend aufgefordert, Lösungsansätze für eine Koexistenz mit dem Mobilfunk zu entwickeln und Ersatzspektrum für drahtlose Produktionsmittel zuzuweisen. Die hochrangig besetzte Konferenz der „Wider Spectrum Group“ (WSG) in Brüssel unterstreicht nochmals die Bedeutung des Themas auch auf internationaler Ebene. Das vollständige Programm finden Sie [hier zum Download](#).

## Broadband TV news

23 October 2015

Julian Clover

# Broadband TV News

The Industry's No.1 Information Provider

## EU urged to back free-to-air TV

October 23, 2015 10.46 Europe/London By Julian Clover

Jonathan Thompson, Chief Executive, Digital UK, The Wider Spectrum Group (WSG) has joined the chorus of organisations seeking protection for free-to-air television and terrestrial distribution.

At a meeting in Brussels, Digital UK and fellow members of the WSG urged policy makers to secure airwaves used by Freeview and European terrestrial services ahead of major international decisions on spectrum allocation at the World Radiocommunication Conference next month.

The discussions were attended by Günther Oettinger, EU Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, and Pascal Lamy, Chairman of the High Level Group and author of a recent report on the future of the UHF band. Speaking at the event, Mr Lamy noted that his recommendations, including safeguarding TV spectrum to 2030, now form the 'backbone' of EU spectrum policy.

Jonathan Thompson, CEO of Digital UK, said: "The Lamy report offers us a win-win scenario delivering both room for mobile broadband to grow and protection for DTT. It provides a sensible, pragmatic solution with the time for a further review of spectrum use is 10-years' time – let's stop having the same endless debate."

The WSG represents the interests of viewers and listeners, employees and employers across Europe in the fields of audiovisual, radio, programme making and special events, including terrestrial television. WSG members share a common view on the need to ensure European and national policies regarding the allocation of airwaves preserve the potential for growth, innovation and sustainable employment across the EU.

<http://www.broadbandtvnews.com/2015/10/23/eu-urged-to-back-free-to-air-tv/>

## Advanced Television

23 October 2015

# ADVANCED TELEVISION

## EU urged to protect future of free TV

October 23, 2015

Digital UK Chief Executive Jonathan Thompson joined other senior representatives from the broadcasting sector across Europe as they called on the EU to protect the future of free-to-air TV.

At a meeting in Brussels, Digital UK and fellow members of the Wider Spectrum Group urged policy makers to secure airwaves used by Freeview and European terrestrial services ahead of major international decisions on spectrum allocation at the World Radiocommunication Conference next month.

According to the Group, access to sufficient spectrum is critical to sustaining Europe's creative and cultural industries, which taken at large account for around 6 per cent of the EU's GDP (€860 billion) and approximately 14 million direct and indirect jobs. However, decisions at this year's WRC could see remaining TV airwaves opened up to mobile networks.

The discussions were attended by Günther Oettinger, EU Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, and Pascal Lamy, Chairman of the High Level Group and author of a recent report on the future of the UHF band. Speaking at the event, Lamy noted that his recommendations, including safeguarding TV spectrum to 2030, now form the 'backbone' of EU spectrum policy.

Thompson noted that broadcasting remained a vital technology, but was already using less and less spectrum to deliver more and more content for consumers, and questioned whether the mobile sector could say the same thing. "There is also a big question as to which spectrum is best suited to new uses such as 5G, with all indications that the focus should be on higher frequencies. The Lamy report offers us a win-win scenario delivering both room for mobile broadband to grow and protection for DTT. It provides a sensible, pragmatic solution with the time for a further review of spectrum use is 10-years' time – let's stop having the same endless debate" he urged.

<http://advanced-television.com/2015/10/23/eu-urged-to-protect-future-of-free-tv/>

## Digital TV Europe

23 October 2015



### Digital UK urges Europe to 'protect future of free TV'

Digital UK and members of the Wider Spectrum Group have urged EU policy makers to protect the airwaves used by Freeview and other European terrestrial services ahead of the WRC next month.

Digital UK Chief Executive Jonathan Thompson and other senior representatives of the broadcasting sector called on the EU to protect the future of free-to-air TV at a meeting in Brussels yesterday.

“Broadcasting remains a vital technology but is already using less and less spectrum to deliver more and more content for consumers – can the mobile sector say the same thing? There is also a big question as to which spectrum is best suited to new uses such as 5G, with all indications that the focus should be on higher frequencies,” said Thompson.

“The Lamy report offers us a win-win scenario delivering both room for mobile broadband to grow and protection for DTT. It provides a sensible, pragmatic solution with the time for a further review of spectrum use is 10-years’ time – let’s stop having the same endless debate.”

The Europe-wide reallocation of 700Mhz spectrum from broadcast to mobile broadband is due to be finalised at the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC), with discussion also expected about the reallocation in the lower frequency bands of 470Mhz-694Mhz up.

In September 2014, Pascal Lamy, the European Commission’s chairman of the group on the future of the Ultra High Frequency spectrum, recommended in his Lamy report that the 700 MHz band (694-790 MHz) should be dedicated to wireless broadband across Europe by 2020 – give or take two years.

It also said that current use of the 470-694 MHz band should be safeguarded until 2030 to provide “regulatory security and stability for terrestrial broadcasters” with a review by 2025 to assess technology and market developments of the UHF spectrum.

<http://www.digitaltveurope.net/448352/digital-uk-urges-europe-to-protect-future-of-free-tv/>