

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Broadcast Networks Europe welcomes confirmation of long term access to spectrum for terrestrial broadcasting in the Parliament/Council/Commission legislative deal on the UHF Band.**

*Brussels 21 December 2016*

Broadcast Networks Europe (BNE) welcomes the key commitments in favour of terrestrial broadcasting from the Parliament, the Council and the Commission in the political agreement announced ahead of the final UHF Band decision:

- TV broadcasting will retain priority in the sub-700 MHz band for the foreseeable future, i.e. *at least* until 2030;
- A realistic calendar for migrating existing users from the 700 MHz is adopted, targeting 2020, but acknowledging some Member States may need until 30 June 2022;
- Measures to support the transition for the sector and for consumers, including the possibility for Member States to compensate migration costs related to the reallocation of the spectrum.

Commenting on this outcome, BNE Chairman Olivier Huart said: “The 250 million DTT viewers who appreciate free-to-air television expect that the leading television distribution platform in Europe will continue to compete and innovate. We are now confident that the final legislation will provide the regulatory certainty to make that happen. Policy makers have recognised the popularity of digital terrestrial television and its value to the European audiovisual market, and have acted accordingly.”

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[BNE](#) is a trade organization for Terrestrial Broadcast Network Operators for Radio and TV in Europe based in Brussels. The 19 BNE members are operating in 22 European countries. Members are Antenna Hungaria (Hungary), Arqiva (UK), Cellnex (Spain), České Radiokomunikace (Czech Republic), Digea (Greece), Digita (Finland), ETV (Serbia), Elettronica Industriale (Italy), Emitel (Poland), Media Broadcast (Germany), 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.

**For further information**

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