

Broadcast Networks Europe's input to the RSPG Virtual Workshop on Radio Spectrum Policy Programme

1) What are the most burning spectrum policy and strategic issues in your sector on a 5 to 15 year horizon?

- Continued long term access to adequate frequency spectrum, the 470-694 MHz band, is an absolute need for terrestrial broadcasting services to exist and operate. The provision of better services through constant innovation is also a necessity to maintain attractiveness of the platform to citizens.
- The long term spectrum policy and strategic issues for terrestrial broadcasting in Europe have been settled by the EU UHF Decision, at least until 2030, and the strategic opinion of the RSPG identified this band for audiovisual distribution even beyond that. No new facts have appeared since then.
- The UHF Decision provides long-term certainty to the European Broadcasting industry, allowing it to invest in service and network innovation whilst it keeps informing, entertaining and educating Europeans, by ensuring access to the 470-694MHz band. Equally it provides long-term certainty for the consumer electronics industry to continue developing and for consumers to invest in end-user equipment.
- The current regulatory framework is flexible enough to accommodate different needs of different European countries.
- On international spectrum matters, Agenda Item 1.5 of WRC23 would be the most burning topic.

2) What could you or your sector bring to the European spectrum policy table to make the future spectrum use easier for everyone else?

- **Investment:** 700MHz band clearance and national coverage networks
- **Innovation:** new and improved broadcast services such as HDTV, HDR, 4K, interactivity, to reach mobile devices and cars, etc using new technologies such as DVB-T2, HEVC, HbbTV, 5G Broadcast, without asking for more broadcast spectrum.
- **Spectrum Coordination:** international coordination under GE06 well established
- **Real Spectrum Sharing:** sub 700MHz is a clear example of spectrum sharing for years; spectrum is used by terrestrial broadcasting, PMSE, radio astronomy or TV white space systems
- **Resilient service to citizens:** as COVID-19 crisis showed in Europe, terrestrial broadcasting services are the most trusted source of information, are provided by resilient and independent networks (no reduction in Quality of Service during the crisis) and are a very reliable and efficient way to reach citizens. Don't put all the eggs on the same basket
- **Climate change:** According to the *BBC WHP 372* “digital terrestrial broadcast is the least electricity-intensive distribution platform and that cable, satellite and streaming are of a similar order”

3) What are your expectations on European spectrum policy and possible concrete strategic actions under a new RSPP?

Terrestrial broadcasting services, including free television, are essential for European citizens, for upholding European values and for the European Content and Cultural industry, therefore we expect that a new RSPP will:

- Emphasize terrestrial broadcasting services as a EU strategic sector, recognizing its communicative, social, economic and cultural irreplaceable character.
- Recall that the EC UHF Decision sets a clear framework until at least 2030
 - Continued access to the band for terrestrial broadcasting
 - Provides for flexibility under precise terms.
- Ensure that the EU approach to the WRC-23 preparation is consistent with the UHF Decision and supports the priority to defend the European strategic sector of Content and Cultural industry.