

21 January 2010

The EBU response to the Public communication on the draft RSPG 2010 Work Programme

The European Broadcasting Union¹ (EBU) welcomes the opportunity to present its comments on the draft Radio Spectrum Policy Group 2010 Work Programme.

The EBU and its Members follow with interest the activities of the RSPG. We note in the draft 2010 Work Programme several issues that are relevant for broadcasting services.

The following work items are particularly important for the EBU members:

- *Digital dividend*
Implementation of various initiatives outlined in the EC Communication COM(2009)586 and the EC Recommendation C(2009)8287 will have significant implications for broadcasters (e.g. costs of evacuating the 800 MHz band, interference issues, constraints on further development of terrestrial broadcasting) which should be duly taken into account. The EU roadmap should also provide certainty for broadcasters and manufacturers to make investments in the new equipment and services as well as for the viewers to invest in new receiver equipment.
- *Technology impact on spectrum management*
As indicated in the draft Work Programme 'A second work stream could be a report highlighting the spectrum usage situation by radio broadcasting service, both in VHF bands and 1.5 GHz, assessing the needs and the opportunities of the sector and identifying which activities could be beneficial for its development and the strategic objectives for the future more efficient use of the bands.'
Broadcasters, manufacturers and CEPT have undertaken a number of activities that aim at creating favourable conditions for the successful transition to digital radio in Europe. It is important that these efforts are recognised and supported by the regulators and policy makers. We believe that RSPG can play an important role in facilitating EU wide initiatives.

Finally, EBU would welcome a possibility to contribute to RSPG work on the above mentioned issues, as appropriate.

¹ The EBU is the world's largest professional association of national broadcasters, whose Active Members are public service broadcasters in 56 countries corresponding to the ITU European Broadcasting Area, which includes all European countries, Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. Associate Members include broadcasters from Canada, the USA, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, India and Hong Kong, as well as many others.

The EBU's purpose is to serve and support the interests of its Members, promote cooperation between broadcasters and facilitate the exchange of audiovisual content. The EBU works to ensure that the crucial role of public service broadcasting, which is central to Members' activities, is recognised and taken into consideration by decision-makers.

The organization provides services to the broadcasting community at large, along with expertise specifically to Members on legal, technical and programming issues. It also conducts economic and market analyses and offers targeted training programmes. For more information about the EBU: www.ebu.ch